

# Safe-injection sites too effective to shoot down

Harper and the Conservatives have avoided the issue of drug clinics so far, but as Insite's trial run draws to a close, the time has never been better for the government to take a stance



ADAM  
GAUMONT

Let's make one thing clear: Safe- or Supervised-Injection Sites (SISs), clinics where drug addicts inject themselves with narcotics under the supervision of health care professionals, are illegal in Canada. Their very existence violates our country's drug laws, and the only reason Vancouver's Insite clinic—the only one of its kind in North America—exists is due to a temporary exemption implemented (under Section 56 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, in case you're interested) by then-PM Paul Martin and his Liberal government.

This three-year trial run expires next month, and the pressure is now on Stephen Harper's Conservative government to decide whether to allow clinics such as Insite to operate.

Harper made his position clear on this issue when he was elected back in January: he's "philosophically opposed" to the idea of SISs, but would wait until evidence of the site's effectiveness was gathered before making a final decision.

This was and is a very reasonable position; in fact, even if Harper was philosophically in favour of SISs, he

ought to have done the same thing, for it's the solemn responsibility of our policymakers to gather as much valid, empirical data as possible before making such an important and precedent-setting decision.

There are several criticisms of SISs that typically get hauled out: that they promote drug use, that they encourage dependence, that they increase crime in the neighbourhoods in which they're situated, that they simply don't work—and, by extension, a waste of taxpayers' money, that cardinal governmental sin. Without studying it any further, then, many would likely agree with Harper's stance on this issue.

The studies have been done, however, and the evidence overwhelmingly indicates that Insite is effective, not only in the prevention of infection among users, but also in helping free users from addiction altogether. SISs offer clean needles for users, unlike the dirty, HIV-infected needles found on the streets; these clinics also offer nurses and doctors who provide medical services, as well as counsellors that guide addicts toward recovery. In other words, SISs don't promote drug use; rather, they promote clean, safe use for addicts and encourage them to recover and kick the habit.

Numerous studies have been conducted both by outside researchers and within the Vancouver clinic itself, including a report released last week conducted by the BC Centre

for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, which found that "three-quarters of Insite users report the facility has positively changed their injecting behaviour." Local governments and police, the RCMP, and former addicts alike all attest to the progress made.

Despite this seemingly irrefutable evidence, Harper and his Conservatives have remained stubbornly silent on the issue, even despite earlier promises to make their position clear by the end of the recent International AIDS conference held earlier this month in Toronto—an event which our PM notoriously failed to attend.

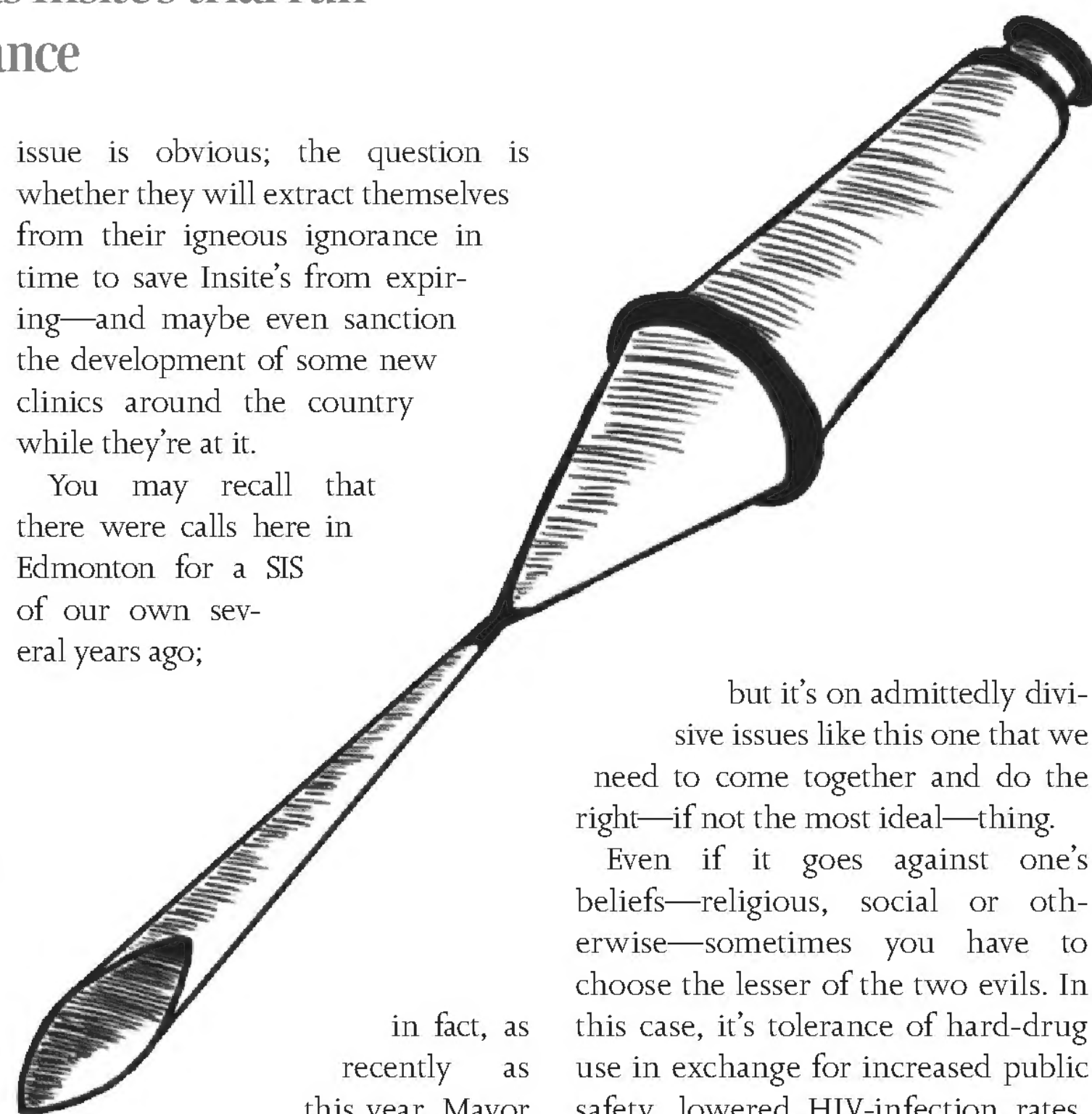
Instead, Harper later defended his absence, pointing out correctly that he can't accept every invitation he's offered, and that he wasn't going to comment on the issue while it was "so politicized." He's damn right it's politicized—isn't politics what he does for a living?

To be fair, Federal Health Minister Tony Clement was in attendance, and pragmatically speaking, it's probably better to have a real live bureaucrat there than a political figurehead. But we all know the influence figureheads have on public perception, and in this sense, Harper's snubbing of the conference doesn't bode well for his government's still-to-be-announced position on SISs like Insite.

That the Conservatives have their heads deep below the sand on this

issue is obvious; the question is whether they will extract themselves from their igneous ignorance in time to save Insite's from expiring—and maybe even sanction the development of some new clinics around the country while they're at it.

You may recall that there were calls here in Edmonton for a SIS of our own several years ago;



but it's on admittedly divisive issues like this one that we need to come together and do the right—if not the most ideal—thing.

Even if it goes against one's beliefs—religious, social or otherwise—sometimes you have to choose the lesser of the two evils. In this case, it's tolerance of hard-drug use in exchange for increased public safety, lowered HIV-infection rates, and the reduction of addicts and users in our country's most drug-addled neighbourhoods. Seems like a pretty clear-cut choice to me.

But this isn't a simplistic issue, and no one—our elected government least among them—can afford to take an ideological position here. Ignoring the effectiveness of SISs has the same effect as pretending that the problem doesn't exist, and going directly against proven science is hopefully a relic of the past.

ILLUSTRATION: MATTHEW BARRETT

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# Canadian government not aiding enough in global fight against HIV



JESSICA WARREN

Despite the travel havoc that many encountered due to the recently discovered London terrorist plot, over 20 000 delegates from around the world attended the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto this August.

Much was also made over who wasn't there: criticism was particularly sharp over Prime Minister Stephen Harper's failure to attend, as it was for his government's reneging on their promise to "make Canada proud" of an AIDS donation package that was in fact never announced. All the while, a seemingly endless number of stories were hurled at us from newspapers and televisions around the world about AIDS in Africa, AIDS in Canada, and the ways in which it affects us all.

The progression of and end to this conference offered a stark contrast between the separation between the grassroots AIDS movement and our government's position on the pandemic.

While the *Globe and Mail* had daily coverage of both the conference itself and AIDS issues in general, and as thousands of people marched through downtown Toronto on 14 August to the slogan "women's rights are human rights," the Canadian government sidestepped questions asking for an announcement that Canada would bolster contributions to the Global Fund for the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

Meanwhile, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are calling for fair-trade rules that will help provide life-extending drugs to those infected in developing countries. Though not cures, these drugs would give HIV-positive people more years and allow them to continue working, making money and having a meaningful role in the development of their society. Why then, with such effort on the part of NGOs and professional lobbyists, does our government remain silent?

## The progression of and end to this conference offered a stark contrast between the separation between the grassroots AIDS movement and our government's position on the pandemic

AIDS is a worldwide problem. Its spread is fueled by ignorance—especially of its underlying causes. Causes such as poverty and "subterranean racism" (as outgoing UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa Stephen Lewis describes it) on the part of Western governments and people, one which allows for a fatalistic attitude to pervade opinions on the inevitability of the AIDS problem in Africa and Asia.

Its spread is also fuelled by myth, such as that AIDS is the disease of homosexuals, and that to have HIV is an immediate death sentence.

Despite this ignorance, steps can

be taken to help the scourge of a disease that has left 22 million children orphaned in sub-Saharan Africa, tens of millions around the world stigmatized and alone, and which has lowered the general standard of living for millions more around the globe.

The cancellation of foreign debts, for example, allows countries to devote more of their resources to domestic issues such as health care. This is exactly what Zambia has done since its debt was cancelled this year, and health care is now free to everyone living in rural areas in that country. Greater support of the Global Fund will help the development of usable microbicides—gels or creams that can be applied to the vagina or anus and protect the user from infection.

Public education campaigns that serve to counter the stigma of the disease in high-prevalence countries, along with campaigns here in Canada that focus on our role in the progress of the disease, are integral to the success of new programs and locally-based initiatives focused on testing and treatment of the disease—not to mention people's general understanding of it.

Addressing this problem now will save millions of lives and dollars in the future. NGOs worldwide already recognize this and have grouped together both locally and internationally, thanks in part to the International AIDS Conferences held every second year.

However, our own government's lack of commitment to addressing this issue, whether it stems from the "politicization" of an inherently political subject or a real prejudice against the concept of AIDS, only takes away from the effort needed to make preventing and ending the AIDS crisis a reality in our increasingly integrated world.

# West turned deaf ear to Middle-East



MATTHEW BARRETT

I was at my summer job, working for the small town I grew up in, when the first bombs fell on Beirut. I was one-fifth of a grass-cutting crew, overqualified and under-managed. We were all students—those of us that didn't already go to the University of Alberta were starting their first semester here this fall.

I was wearing a harness for the weed whacker when the first power plant was destroyed; a pair of scratched safety glasses that smelled like beer when roads and bridges began to disappear in fire and smoke.

I had bullet-shaped earplugs in my ears to take the edge off the noise, to make the motor's roar sound distant and far away, when craters were punched into the tarmac of the Beirut airport. It was like this for weeks. I cut grass, and bombs fell.

In less than a month, the Lebanese infrastructure was torn apart. According to Fadl Shalak, head of Lebanon's Council for Development and Reconstruction, the damage incurred by Israeli attacks amounted to US \$3.5 billion, over half of which accounted for the destruction of Lebanese homes.

Throughout all this, the West was

"The death toll rose: thousands of civilians killed, with only dozens of confirmed guerilla deaths. I learned from a friend that the son of a store-owner on Whyte Avenue was in the Beirut airport when it was bombed. We turned the music up. We kept our earplugs in. We looked for other places to cut."

quiet, earplugs jammed too far in to notice, too busy watching the grass cord spin at the end of the weed-whacker to intervene.

Israel called us on it, stating that since no world power had told them to stop, we'd effectively given them the green light to continue.

It didn't matter that the closest countries to the conflict—Syria and Iran—had urged the signing of a ceasefire just days before. Nor did it matter that Condoleeza Rice—one of the most hawkish members of one of the most hawkish American governments in history—had done the same.

Eventually, we started running out of places to mow, out of excuses not to take out our earplugs. We ended up painting the local arena from top to bottom twice over, with the speaker system cranked so loud that we couldn't even think.

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We turned the music up. We kept our earplugs in. We looked for other places to cut.

Summer was almost over. I quit my job six days after UN Resolution 1701 called for an end to the war, the same week Israeli commandos participated in a raid in the Bekaa Valley, already violating the terms of this fragile ceasefire. I remember coming home and throwing the last of my bullet-shaped earplugs into the garbage, watching them expand back to their original shape as they fell to the bottom.

In the coming weeks, Hezbollah would pledge to give US \$12 000 in aid to each Lebanese family that had their home destroyed, effectively guaranteeing generations of supporters; American President George Bush would link Hezbollah to the recent apprehensions in London; rumours would surface that the last payload dropped on southern Lebanon contained US-made cluster bombs.

But never mind that the use of these weapons violates agreements between Israel and the United States regarding their use, and that the US State Department is launching an investigation into the matter. Because we, North America and the Western world, aren't listening. Our earplugs are in. We need to find more grass to cut.

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## Face the facts, parents: your kids are fat

Canada's growing childhood obesity epidemic starts and ends at home



RAMÍN  
OSTAD

One of my goals over the summer holiday—aside from watching the new *Battlestar Galactica* and finishing *Final Fantasy 9*, of course—was to shave off a few pounds. After stuffing myself during finals in April, I found that I had gained a little more weight than I had anticipated.

So, like the many other poor, flabby souls who attempt to meet the ideal of physical fitness shoved into our brains through the pneumatic boob tube, I joined a gym. As I sweat away the pounds along with most of my feelings of self-worth, I swore to myself that I would never let my children suffer like me. They would live a healthy lifestyle, and I would start them on it early.

At least, the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) seems to think it's a good idea. In its recently released annual report card on health care in Canada, they found that while only nine per cent of Canadian parents thought their own children were overweight, Statistics Canada showed it to be about 26 per cent. It also showed that while 40 per cent of par-

ents believed their own children to be in perfect health, almost all parents surveyed supported initiatives designed to improve children's health and activity levels—initiatives such as tax deductions for money spent on sports programs, compulsory physical activity in schools, tax breaks on healthy foods and even a higher tax on junk food itself.

These are all good ideas, and I'll be the first to attest how ineffective the school system can be when it comes to teaching children important life lessons. Providing tax deductions for sports programs is smart, since sports equipment alone can cost hundreds.

**A large portion of them refuse to admit that their children are large-yet-not-in-charge...**

The more you look at these initiatives, however, the more you realize that they ignore an important discovery made in the CMA's report card: parents have no sense of accountability. Not only do a large portion of them refuse to admit that their children are large-yet-not-in-charge, an even larger portion believe that "the system" should be doing the work for them.

It probably doesn't help that a group of researchers in California, based on

research from one of the U of A's own, have now developed an obesity vaccine designed to attack the hormone ghrelin, which helps your body store fat. Don't get me wrong: if this vaccine does in fact work, I'm sure it will be very useful for people with legitimate medical conditions.

However, I'm also fairly certain that it will be requested by lazy parents who want to fix little Augustus' weight problem without forcing him to stop eating Gloop. Before parents are given these luxuries, shouldn't they prove that they're doing more than trying to get a free ride?

In no way am I saying that keeping yourself fit is an easy gig—especially when my daily cardio routine involves going from floor to floor between my computer and my Playstation. But kids are an even greater challenge, and while clichéd, just getting them to eat their vegetables can produce disastrous effects.

But before any of that can change, parents need to realize that admitting to the problem is the first step, and that maybe their kids aren't in the same shape that their parents see them. Relying on schools and medicine to fix your kid's eating disorders isn't going to do anything but give you a vague sense of guilt relief, and only when parents decide to trim off some of their own false perceptions will their eight-year-old's love handles go with them.

## A rotten roommate can spoil your year



TIM  
PEPPIN

**"There are lots of ways in which a roommate can be bad. One of the worst ways is for them to be socially inept. On the surface, this may not seem so awful. You may think that you can take this confused young pup and show it the ropes. After all, that's what Jesus would do."**

Well, my young whelps, here you are, wearing crisp, clean undergarments which, for the first time in what you no doubt consider an impressive and wisdom-engendering 18 years, you have purchased yourself.

You're feeling overawed by what you no doubt consider an expansive and splendid campus, each building replete with burgeoning intellects and wise, white-haired professors practically tripping over themselves in their eagerness to teach classes, grade papers and engage in undergraduate debate.

You're reading your university's illustrious student newspaper, which, because of its tasteful and professional layout and colourful cover photo, you no doubt consider an organ for debate and the exchange of ideas of the greatest importance. You'll find out soon enough that this entirely not the case—probably before you even get to the comics section, assuming you haven't turned there first.

And I'll be happy to be the one to tell you. It will be a shock to learn that the majority of your peers read at an eighth-grade level; that, were you to have a seizure in class your professor would not only do nothing to help you, but would secretly harbour hope that you die; and that, despite the visualization and the pep-talk you gave yourself beforehand, after having seated yourself in front of your first midterm, you shit your pants. That's part of university, and part of growing up. Apparently it happens every year.

These things are fleeting—practically inconsequential. Classmates, professors, underpants: they're all transient. What you will be stuck with, however, are your roommates.

Diligent little knowledge-beavers that you are, you're probably reading this a few days before the start of classes, perhaps picking up your textbooks. I hope so. That means there's still time. Take it from me: if you have a bad roommate already, or you know one's moving in, move.

There are lots of ways in which a roommate can be bad. One of the worst ways is for them to be socially inept. On the surface, this may not seem so awful. You may think that you can take this confused young pup and show it the ropes. After all, that's what Jesus would do.

However, this kind of roommate, particularly if it's their first time away from home, will often use those in the house as a sort of surrogate family. You'll be furnished with unwanted details of their various emotional crises and health problems, relied upon to provide entertainment, and will awkwardly attempt to comfort them when they inevitably cry over what, to a normal adult, would seem a trifling setback.

A bad roommate may play bad music loudly; they may play video games even more loudly, neglecting entirely the wonders of the "line out" port on their computers. They may shower until the tank runs cold, and then masturbate with your conditioner, trusting—wrongly—in the combined

powers of gravity and moving water to dispose of the evidence.

Some bad roommates will drink too much and vomit in the house. Some will steal your food. Some bad roommates are too uptight to be any fun, and some think that eating gross things in front of other people will make them the Mayor of Awesometown.

Because, as you'll soon find out, at university you typically get a single specific example to illustrate a general principle, let's look at why one of my roommates was bad. We'll call him Steve, because that was his name. Today, on the one-year anniversary of having moved into this house, perhaps as a perverse means of celebration, I cleaned our fridge.

In it, tucked happily into a top-shelf corner, undisturbed for months, was a red pepper, its surface covered over with a pillowy, mottled blanket of fungus. Steve's. On the middle shelf, cowering behind a bulwark of expired plum sauce, decomposing fish, and long-expired milk (mine, I must admit), was a carton of eggs. Expiration date: 30 September. 2005. Steve's. In the freezer, an opened package of ham, the exposed meat freezer-burned so badly that it had turned white and was cracking, like flaking diseased skin. Steve's.

Needless to say, I finally kicked his ass to the curb. I sincerely hope you don't make the same mistakes I did, because Steve was a horrible roommate who ruined an entire year of my life. And that was easily the worst omelette I've ever eaten.



# SU politics: nothing else matters



ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI

From the moment you set foot on campus as a student for the first time until the end of your first semester (and beyond if you too are blessed with neurotic parents), cautionary tales about university life abound. From being told to do all your readings, to worrying about the “Freshman 15,” to keeping your grades up and not throttling your roommate before thanksgiving, some truly important advice about being a student—such as getting involved in non-academic groups—gets lost. Eventually you’ll get a handle on what’s truly important to being a student, like those dates on your syllabi or playing foosball all night. This likely won’t include following the Students’ Union and at Students’ Council—and that’s a terrible mistake to make. Sure, the SU and Council aren’t as fun as playing foosball, but the issues they deal with will likely affect you much more. From getting the add/drop deadline extended to making campus bars smoke-free, the SU has already

changed many of the facts of undergraduate life in the last few years. This should come as no surprise, given its ability to tax students, act as their sole official representative with the Administration and have a \$10 million budget. They also run SUB and the many services and businesses inside, and generally make decisions that impact all students. While these facts might not instantly capture your attention, they should at least dispel any notion that the University’s SU is the same as the one that put on dances at your high school. This is one whose work may eventually compel all students to pay upwards of \$80 per term for a bus pass or buy into a health plan. This is the one that played a key role in preventing the University from having students pay extra fees for new buildings, getting screwed by changes to degree programs and having extra fees tacked on to an already heavy tuition load. These issues all have been debated and voted on by Students’ Council and the general student population in the last four years, and are just a sample of the kinds of issues that will undoubtedly surface during your time on campus—any one of which could potentially add hundreds of dollars to the cost of your university degree. However, unlike the psychotic room-

mate that you somehow wound up with, dealing with the SU is fairly easy and can make your entire term as a student more enjoyable. As an organization—or, more accurately, a level of government—put together for and by students, it’s not too much to ask other students to at least keep an eye on what your \$15.68 SU fee per term is being spent on. All it takes is a look at this newspaper, the SU website or a conversation with a student councillor to find out what’s happening with your government. For only a few minutes a month, you can be up-to-date as to what’s going on and what issues (like the aforementioned bus pass) that you may be asked to vote on in the election. While following the SU might not be as enticing as a frat-house toga party, it’s an important part of being a student nevertheless. Ignore the SU and what it does, and you (or rather those neurotic parents of yours) might soon find a surcharge for campus toilet use imbedded in your tuition—or, even worse, you might find yourself having to spend an extra year on campus thanks to unannounced changes to your degree requirements. In other words, the kinds of issues that are just as pressing as that growing pile of books to be read or the few extra pounds you’re trying to sweat out.

# The resolution revolution is nigh



DEREK LARSON

After that wasted year, I gradually started doing more stuff. I joined clubs on campus, started organizing events in residence, and volunteered for numerous activities. I might not have accomplished my New Year’s resolutions, but by golly, I did my best, and I improved too. And now here I am, a fourth-year student, eight months away from a BSc, and feebly trying to impart some sparks of wisdom and experience to those who may not feel they should simply grab campus life by the scrotum and squeeze it for all it’s worth. To quote Aristotle, “Young people are in a condition like permanent intoxication.” He may well have been right, but I encourage everyone to sober up, get interested in something, and actually gain some experiences. University can be full of them, and now’s the best time to jump in head first and see how deep the water is when you get there. After all, there are still eight months until you have to figure out how well you have to do on your finals so you don’t fail out of university. Until then, get interested—and maybe you’ll become a little more interesting yourself. That’s my little spark of wisdom, use it as you will. My only hope is that it saves you from making New Year’s resolutions. They don’t work anyway—believe me, I know. Some people make New Year’s resolutions on 1 January. I make mine in the first week of September. Every year is the same. I always tell myself that this year will be different, that this year I’ll accomplish all of my goals: get in shape, make the Dean’s List, pick up a gorgeous babe, take in an Oilers game, single-handedly lower tuition and improve campus food. So far: well, nothing. I blame high school. I did everything: sports, academics, students’ council, drama, youth group, student paper, award trips, parties, movies, etc. I burned out. I had so much on my plate that I choked on dessert. By the time graduation hit, I didn’t care about any of it anymore. I just wanted it to be over. I started university telling myself that things would be different. Academics were suddenly most important—this was my future, and I couldn’t blow it. I was going cold turkey on extracurricular activities until I knew I could handle them along with coursework.

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Look WAY up.

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GATEWAY OPINION

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# Campus building towards the future



PHIL  
HEAD

In the near future, the buildings known as V-wing and Physics will be no more. Torn down to make way for the new Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, first-year students, particularly those in science, are now deprived of an important rite of passage.

The building formerly known as V-wing will be remembered for many things—most of them bad. The chairs were uncomfortable, with no padding or leg room. The fold-up desks can be summed up as useless, as they were the size of a calculator rather than a sheet of paper. The hallways were always crowded with students flying in and out of classes. But all this is simply scratching the surface, as it was below ground that V-wing transformed from being merely a poorly designed collection of lecture theatres into something bordering on the mythic.

As anyone who had a locker there can attest, the basement of V-wing was like a scene from a sci-fi horror. This is where old science equipment went to die. I sincerely believe that if a portal to another dimension were to exist, it would be in there, the forgotten leftovers of a 1950s-era physics experiment.

There were low ceilings lined with pipes running inches above your head perpetually producing a deafening hissing noise. Constant alertness was also required in order to avoid the

random outcroppings that frequently threatened to hit taller students like me on the head.

All feelings of nostalgic horror aside, if the Administration truly wishes to ensure interdisciplinary interaction at this fine institution, they must ensure that the new centre is directly connected not only to CAB and BioSci, but to the Arts and Engineering portions of campus as well.

I have always sensed a degree of condescension towards students who happen to be from different faculties, manifested in such common stereotypes as engineers being drunkards and arts students being unemployable. Faculty pride indeed comes before the fall semester, as students have these notions instilled in them through cheers from the first moments of their faculty-specific orientation.

**The building formerly known as V-wing will be remembered for many things—most of them bad.**

This ideology is subsequently reinforced in a campus-wide apartheid of sorts. If you look at a map of campus you will notice that it can be divided into four connected groups: to the east there is the Arts column, stretching from the Timms Centre and Law down through HUB, Humanities, and then to Tory and Business. To the south lies the Medical Compound, consisting of the hospital, Medical Sciences, and the Heritage Medical Research Building. On the west side

of campus lie Chemical/Materials Engineering, ETLC, General Services, SUB and the Ag/For corridor. Finally, in the center lies the Science Column stretching from Dentistry through Civil/Electrical Engineering to CAB, Chemistry, Physics and BioSci.

These structural divisions can limit a student's exposure to other viewpoints. It also makes sense for students in Edmonton to choose their routes in such a way as to minimize the time spent outside in winter. After all, to get to university a person should be smart enough to avoid frost bite by seeking temperature-controlled buildings, if not to wear toques for fear of unsightly hat hair.

For instance, I would pass through the electrical engineering corridor daily on my way to BioSci; although I've never taken a class in the building I was still exposed to engineering concepts such as concrete toboggans, and would even occasionally pick up a copy of the *Bridge* (the engineering students' quasi-monthly rag). On the other hand, I probably only visit HUB three times a year. Such a lack of faculty familiarity must come to an end.

Taking advantage of V-wing's central location amongst the campus corridors and the imminent construction occurring there is the perfect opportunity to physically connect the concrete islands of self-imposed intellectual isolation that are present on campus.

Not only would connecting buildings reduce the amount of slush being tracked inside during winter, but dorm residents could arrive in their slippers and pajamas instead of just their pajamas. While I don't suggest students should take permanent leave of their faculties, the path to broadening one's intellectual horizons is but a step away.

# Good luck, my little peanuts

Growing up is for adults; stay young while you can



CHRIS  
KRAUSE

Here we are, getting older, taking on more responsibility. We may be just starting out at university, or living on our own for the first time, or perhaps starting a Masters or PhD; some of us may even be doing freaky shit like getting married. In short, growing up.

Or are we? We now look at our high school days as a time of naïveté and immaturity, even though at the time we thought we knew everything there was to know.

When we're older, we may dismiss our former university-student selves the same way: babies in a second womb, unfettered from the demands and truths of adult life such as mortgages, careers, parenthood or retirement.

This represents what I call the Real World theory of maturity. In the Real World, you learn to accept reality instead of futilely trying to change it. The Real World is uncertain and dangerous, so the most important things are safety and security—not happiness. The Real World is a beast that eats idealism and shits exhaustion. You can't be a grown-up if you don't live in the Real World, and unfortunately for us, universities are distinctly un-Real.

Did I say "unfortunately?" I meant "happily," because it puts us in charge of a few things that don't fit in the Real World—romanticism, optimism and freedom, to name a few. University is

not just our society's academic nucleus; it's also the center for innovation, social justice, progress and revolution. Although it could never happen in the Real World, 20-year-old students from our world have toppled governments and brought corporations to their knees—and they'll do it again.

You're now part of a living legacy of idealism. Grown-ups have to be practical, but we don't. The generations that came before us had crazy dreams like democracy, equality and civil rights. What will your crazy dream be? Freedom from oil? Peace in the Middle East? These things will happen, but they need your zeal. All the grown-ups are too wise to get involved.

While we're at it, what's your dream for yourself? You don't have to be a teacher just because your parents were teachers. You don't have to be a doctor just because your parents were doctors.

Your parents will tell you that in the Real World, time is running out and you'll die soon, so the best job is the one that gives you the most security, which means the most money. In our world, you have the freedom to choose your destiny. Travel! Take a year off! Change faculties! Study what you really want!

The world won't end if you finish your degree in five, six or even seven years. Until you start living a life guided by love and passion instead of pressure and fear, the *real* Real World—your world—doesn't even begin.

But don't worry: as long as you keep your ambition and optimism, as long as you have the courage to take risks and as long as you still dare to follow your passion, you never have to grow up at all.



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# How can humanity self-destruct? Let me count the ways



Recent doomsday speculation by scientists and the media has me pondering what would be the best route to ride out Earth's untimely demise. The following are my top five picks for the most desirable ways for us to join the void of non-existence.

### Number one: nuclear war

Renewed concerns of nuclear annihilation have been sparked by North Korea's recent missile test launches. Hypocritical reactions by other holders of the ultimate thunder stick have increased the Vegas odds of doomsday à la missile.

The world's combined arsenal, an estimated 20 000 short-, medium- and long-range nuclear warheads, could assuredly blow up the planet many times over. On the positive side, all-out nuclear war would be relatively quick and painless.

Sure, many Earthlings would suffer from acute stress while huddled around the family television set, scarfing down cheezies and watching CNN's extensive mushroom cloud coverage, but alcohol, marijuana and Prozac for the kids should make waiting for the inevitable more palatable.

Note: Nuclear war only tops the list if a mass missile launch occurs and there are no survivors; otherwise, due to the discomfort and irritation of

radiation burns and the resulting general chaotic milieu of a dying civilization, it ranks at number three.

### Number two: global warming

Fortunately, Al Gore has reminded us of the consequences of our unquenchable consumption of fossil fuels. Global warming, according to reputable scientists, could cause epic destruction involving extreme weather, floods, droughts, epidemics and killer heat waves beyond anything we've ever experienced. The upside? Well, firstly we'd all be witness to the destructive beauty of Mother Nature, either firsthand or via the Weather Channel. Secondly, global warming would take a while to wipe all of us out, giving us time to go for a relaxing drive in the old SUV while listening to Radiohead sing, "You do it to yourself, you do/ And that's what really hurts."

### Number three: diminished water and food supply

It's not just overpopulation that threatens the world's water and food supply. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) technologies that developed countries use to make modern life comfy and non-labour-intensive have already poisoned much of the world's water, which in turn poisons our agriculture. With heavily populated countries such as China and India becoming ever more industrial, sustainability experts expect water and food resources to dwindle fast.

Now, I'm sure some readers are surprised that this scenario is so low on the

list. Remember, Canada has more safe drinking water than any other country on Earth, but hungry and thirsty people are usually grumpy and not fun to be around. And if humans are willing to war over energy resources, imagine what we'd do to acquire food and water resources (please refer to option number one).

### Number four: worldwide viral pandemic

According to the WHO, SARS, HIV/AIDS, avian-flu, Ebola virus and others on the mutated horizon could make us a planet of incurable sickies. Not a nice way for humanity to peter out.

Living in a world where people fear contact with others could create a new fashion industry for chic, contamination-resistant suits, complete with stylish particle-filter masks. But the social paranoia would make dates and sexual encounters hard to come by.

### Number five: the biblical apocalypse

The end of the world as carried out by God. As a card-carrying atheist, this doomsday possibility doesn't hold much water in my opinion. But if I'm wrong, and an invisible entity in the sky has pre-planned everything in the universe, including the destruction of Earth, this would be the worst possible doomsday scenario, because if the greatest conceivable being is a destructive bastard, I don't relish spending eternity with him or her.

But there's hope for humanity. Last month, respected astrophysicist Stephen Hawking announced a 100-year plan for human continuity: colonize space.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: ASHLEY SCARLETT, JOSH NAULT & JENNY FROGNER  
**LET THERE BE LENS FLARE** Life as we know might soon go out with a bang.

"It's important for the human race to spread out into space for the survival of the species. Life on Earth is at the ever-increasing risk of being wiped out," he said.

It's not immediately obvious why Hawking wants humanity to continue to survive. He maintains that intelligent life in the universe includes the human race "even though much of

its behaviour throughout history has been pretty stupid, and not calculated to aid the survival of the species."

And for those readers who think doomsday isn't inevitable, I congratulate you on your optimism and challenge you to do something to prove me wrong. In the meantime I'll keep my money riding on nuclear war—and hope I don't hit the jackpot.

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# THE GATEWAY

## UNIVERSITY CONFIDENTIAL: WHAT ORIENTATION DOESN'T TELL YOU

NAME  
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NO.



## BOOK-LEARNIN' 101:

## How to buy your books without breaking the bank

Contrary to popular postsecondary mythology, you don't have to wait until the first day of classes before buying your books; you don't have to wait for your syllabus to be handed out, and you don't need to hear it first-hand from your prof either. However, if you still feel that this is necessary, then follow these simple guidelines in order to skip the real lines at the Bookstore.



Figure 1.1 Library books. Shelve your plans for buying new.

### Lesson I: How and where to buy your books

During the busy book-buying season, one obvious way of beating the rush is to go during off-peak hours: either first thing in the morning or, even better, later in the evening. You can also employ the buddy-system of “queueing,” as the British apparently call it, whereby you and, well, a buddy take turns standing in line or shopping for your texts.

That said, the Bookstore actually does a pretty good job of pumping through the maximal amount of customers during peak periods, thanks mainly to the swelling of their cashier ranks. So even if it looks like a Tokyo subway station down there as you peer through the windows in SUB, the reality is you likely won't have to wait in line for more than 15 minutes at any time.

However, if you prefer to think for those 15 minutes that you're not being herded through university like cattle, you can always use a combination of old-fashioned foresight and newfangled technology to acquire your books before the first-week rush. To find out beforehand what books you'll need to buy, simply check out your suggested textbooks online.

To do this, you have two options: either through the Bookstore's own website (<http://www.bookstore.ualberta.ca>) using your student ID number, or via Bear Scat (<https://bearscat.su.ualberta.ca>)—for this you'll need a Campus Computing ID. The latter site will tell you not only what books you need, but also how much they will cost at the University Bookstore—as well as Amazon, Chapters and SUBtitles. It also gives you the projected used price for that book, meaning that's what a used copy *would* cost if there were any for sale (though this is not guaranteed).

Once you've done the research, go ahead and purchase them *before* your classes even start—it's okay, we won't tell anyone. Since the “suggested” textbooks are posted on official sites such as those mentioned above (as well as on instructors' own class websites, if you can find them), and since these rarely get changed, there's really nothing to worry about. Besides, even if they do get changed last minute, whether due to lack of availability or a particularly fussy prof, you can almost always return unused books hassle-free (course packs being one exception—but more on that later).

The Bookstore is open all through the summer, and most texts bought online at major dealers such as Amazon and Chapters will arrive at your door within a week. Of course, you can also just walk into a Chapters or Indigo store yourself, as these locations typically carry most of the mainstream literary titles—though you'll probably be out of luck for specialized textbooks and manuals. You can also support the local, non-censoring bookstore economy by taking your business to independents like Greenwood's Bookshoppe (7925 104 Street) or Audrey's Books (10702 Jasper Avenue). Or, if you want to avoid the teeming masses altogether, just do it the old-fashioned way, buying and trading among your peers (see Selling, Lesson IV).

### Lesson II: You don't have to buy everything new

There are a lot of reasons why you might have to buy a textbook brand-new: it might well be a brand-new book; it might be a hard-to-find reprint or special order; it may be an obscure or highly specialized text; or you may specifically need to have the latest edition (see Lesson III). However, if you can buy a decent, gently used copy, then what's stopping you?

The bookstore itself will sell used copies—if it has any. This of course depends on what they've managed to procure in the buyback process (see Lesson IV). In general, the more popular a book is, the more likely it will be used again by others, whereas the more obscure and advanced material almost never resurfaces. In other words, you'll likely find plenty of used PSYC 104 textbooks, but good luck fulfilling any of your 300- or 400-level needs.

There's also SUBtitles, the used-book store run by the Students' Union, which sells your books on consignment. This means you leave your books on their shelves until they sell. Once your dusty old texts do wind up in new hands, SUBtitles simply takes a small piece of the pie for services rendered. The selection here is usually reasonable, though inventory levels tend to be a bit sparse. Chances are you won't find all the books you're looking for here, but it's definitely worth taking a look.

If you strike out at these University-sanctioned stores, then it's time to hit the gritty streets of Old Strathcona. The bulk of the city's used-book stores reside here, stretching from 109 Books (on—you guessed it—109 Street) all the way to Wee Book Inn (10310 Whyte Avenue) and beyond. There are several others in this general vicinity (not including antiquarian dealers), but for my money the best place to find used literary gems is Old Strathcona Books at 8104 Gateway Boulevard. Used books can also be had downtown and elsewhere, but these locales are few and far between.

### Lesson III: You don't (always) need the same edition

It's often imperative to you have the latest edition of a text, especially in the ever-changing scientific disciplines. However, when it comes to ancient historical documents or 19th-century philosophic treatises, it's a pretty safe bet that not a lot has changed. Sure, there's a new introduction or afterword written by a new expert, and maybe there's even a fancy new illustration on the front cover, but the fact remains that pretty much any copy of *Pride and Prejudice* that you get your hands on for first-year English is going to suffice.



Once you do sheepishly produce your ratty, dog-eared copy of Jane Austen on the first day of classes, your instructor might hint that it would be nice if everyone had the same copy. However, while it's always nice to be on the same page as your teacher figuratively speaking, there's no real reason why you have to have a text with the exact same pagination, especially when it comes to literary studies. Worst-case scenario: when your instructor refers to a particular passage in the text, you won't be able to flip to it just as quickly as everyone else. But since your instructor will probably just read the passage out loud anyway, who cares if you can't find it yourself?

#### **Lesson IV: You don't need all the bells & whistles**

In many cases, especially with first-year texts, publishers are finding ways to bundle and package more and more peripheral paraphernalia into what would have been a plain old textbook. Study guides, CDs, and other such supplemental material, often of minimal educational value (study guides, for example, are often written by a different person or group than the person who wrote the text), can greatly boost the price of the final product. When these doo-dads are sold separately, be very wary: talk to your prof, talk to other students who've taken the class, and try to determine their value before ponying up that extra \$20 or \$30.

Another item you may find on your "required textbooks" list is a course pack; these are compiled and arranged by your instructor him or herself. These usually consist of supplementary reading material and resources, and are ostensibly intended to spare you from buying entire texts containing these various and often hard-to-find items—a benevolent gesture that saves students untold hundreds of dollars. However, you can often save yourself even more cash by trying to seek out these articles and clippings yourself, whether via the library or online databases. Talk to your prof: unless these pieces are incredibly obscure, they can probably point you in the right photocopying direction.

#### **Lesson V: You don't have to spend any money!**

You can always rely on the good old library to get you through (*fig. 1.1*). At least in the case of Humanities courses, the library will be stocked with multiple copies of the text you're looking for. There may not be one for everyone in your class, but not everyone in your class is going to go to the library for their books, now, are they? So if you really want to be subversive (or if you're just plain cheap) then head on down one of the many libraries on campus or throughout town (*fig. 1.2*).

#### **Lesson IV: caveat vendor (seller beware)**

If, on the other hand, you find yourself on the other side of the textbook equation and are looking to get rid of some of those dusty tomes, then you have several options. The most popular—though probably not the most cost-effective—would be the book buyback, which occurs at the end of term.

An ideal book-buyback transaction typically sees the seller receiving 30–50 per cent of the book's original cover price, assuming it's in saleable condition—a reasonable proposition, all things considered. The picture isn't always this rosy, however: oftentimes, whether there's a new edition out or it's not being taught in any class that term, your text will not currently be on the buyback market. Instead, the bookstore may offer you a "wholesale price"—one that often isn't worth the paper your book is printed on.

While the complex economics of the publishing industry may well dictate such a buyback price, do not accept such a lowball offer. Sticking with the economic perspective, it's like owning stock that's dive-bombed on you: even though its resale value has plummeted, it just doesn't make sense for you to abandon ship at this point, not when you've paid so much more for it. Instead of selling it for next to nothing, you might as well hold on to it for nothing in hopes that its value might one day go up. If not, at least you'll still be getting some value—that is, the textbook itself—out of your original investment. After all, it's not a share, it's a tangible, useable commodity.

If the cutthroat world of the book market puts you off, then cut out the middleman and sell directly to your peers. Who knows, maybe you'll even meet the man or woman of your dreams—especially if this dream includes your partner having a passion for used Chemical Engineering textbooks.

The most exhaustive and sophisticated method of book-swapping is the online trading site xbook.ca, a service provided via bearscat and open to all U of A students. Xbook is essentially an online bulletin board that allows buyers and sellers to advertise, shop and communicate. Sellers list the texts they have, report on their condition and set their own prices. Buyers contact the seller directly, and can browse the site's inventory based on the aforementioned categories.

Can't be bothered to list all your books online? Not technologically savvy? Looking for some exercise? You can always sell your books the old-fashioned way by running around and putting up posters on bulletin boards. There are several drawbacks to this, however: for one thing, potential buyers aren't guaranteed to see your advertisements; printing numerous signs can get expensive; running around campus can get tiring; and some buildings require you to track down the bulletin board authorities before allowing you to pin anything up. If you do decide to employ this manual method, you can save yourself a lot of effort by finding out what class your books will be used in, looking up where those classes are being taught, and placing your advertisements near that classroom (most have an unregulated bulletin board located right outside the door).

#### **Final Lesson**

If there's nothing else you take away from this how-to guide, let it be this: for the love of god, don't use a highlighter! It's so first-year, and you'll regret it in the future if you do decide to keep your books. There's nothing more annoying when reading an otherwise well-kept used copy of a textbook than finding that the previous owner went on a neon-yellow rampage for the first and last two weeks of class (though the middle portion is often suspiciously devoid of any indications of even half-hearted perusal). If you simply cannot suppress your urge to employ mnemonic devices of questionable effectiveness, then use a pencil! Or sticky notes. Or just make a note somewhere else. Either way, spare yourself (and future readers, if you do decide to sell) the pain. Like your grandma always warned, stroking your highlighter too much will make you go blind.



**Figure 1.2** While Canadian copyright law dictates that only 10% of a textbook should be photocopied, you can always—if you're into breaking the law—take that library book to ten different photocopy joints (or do it yourself at the library, you sneaky bastard) and voila, you've a complete copy of that \$150 stats text for about \$15.





# THE GATEWAY

volume XCVII number 1 • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • [www.gateway.ualberta.ca](http://www.gateway.ualberta.ca) • thursday, 31 august, 2006

Welcome, friends, to the  
*Gateway's* 97th year. We  
hope you enjoy the ride.

**14-PAGE  
PULLOUT  
INSIDE**



# Everything you ever wanted to know about slacking in University, but were too lazy to ask

Written by Scott Lilwall

**CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'VE MADE IT.** You've shrugged off the heavy chains of high school and survived the banality of summertime employment. Perhaps you've packed all of your worldly possessions in to a bag and moved clear across the country. Or, maybe you're still living at home, suckling greedily at your parents' teat.

Either way, you're here: a postsecondary student. A time of meeting exciting new people, discovering exciting new interests, and finding exciting new places to drink. It's a time to take that final step from the confusing wild of being an awkward high-school student into the monotonous meadow of being an awkward first-year.

But soon, you will realize that, along with these fresh, tingly feelings, is the burden of expectation that you'll actually need to work to obtain a degree. Essays and midterms (not to mention proper hygiene) can be quite the harsh awakening for the new student. What to do when you find yourself unprepared to deal with academia, the place you came to avoid the real world in the first place?

Some might think it's time to buckle down and get to work, proving that you do in fact deserve a chance to study at university. But, that seems like a lot of effort. The other choice is to coast your way through the first year and pray that, by some miracle, you magically become a hard-working student by the time second year rolls around, rather than the useless lazy cad you are now.

Now, many of you might think that you have what it takes to successfully slack your way through the first year; some of you are probably celebrated and accomplished high school slackers. Well, unfortunately, that simply will not cut it in university. You're in the big leagues now, and you're going to need to bring your A material if you want to pull this off. Not doing a lot of work happens to be a lot of work, if you know what I mean. Luckily, you're not alone. This guide comes from a long line of people who have successfully slipped their way through the first year. You will be taught the basic tricks of how to get the most out of your education without actually trying. These tips have been passed down through the ages, ever since prehistoric man first started sleeping in the back row of his SCI 101: Introduction to Fire courses five million years ago (or somewhere around there. I skipped all of my first year ANTHRO courses.)

Before we begin, it should be noted that this isn't a guide on how to do well in your first year. There are many of those around already. This is a guide on how to coast through. By choosing the life of the university slacker, you will forfeit much: high grades, scholarships and awards, and the respect of your peers and instructors. But really, what's all that compared to a few extra hours of sleep and video games?

Let's begin.

## A mind is a thing to waste

The first step to successful slacking is to get in to what is referred to as the Slacker State of Mind, or SSoM. The SSoM is a place of peace, free from all worries, concerns and work ethic. It's where we connect with the lazy lout within.

Achieving the SSoM is a difficult process that can take upwards of ten minutes to master. Like every good state of peace and higher understanding, you need to get a good mantra going. Something short and sweet, with a little bit of rhythm and, if you can swing it, just a dash of alliteration. My suggestion? "Centre on the Credit."

You see, every slacker's greatest enemies are his friends. Upon learning that you've decided to follow the righteous path of the lazy, well-meaning friends will attempt to lead you back to the cult of hard work. One of their favourite ways of trying to lure you back to the fold is the tricky tactic known as the Accountant. They will divide the cost of your course by the number of classes in a semester. The number they get will be expressed in cost per class (\$/class), they will attempt to guilt you in to proper attendance.

EXAMPLE: COST OF CLASS = \$450.00

NUMBER OF CLASSES = 36

EQUATION:  $450/36 = 19.5$

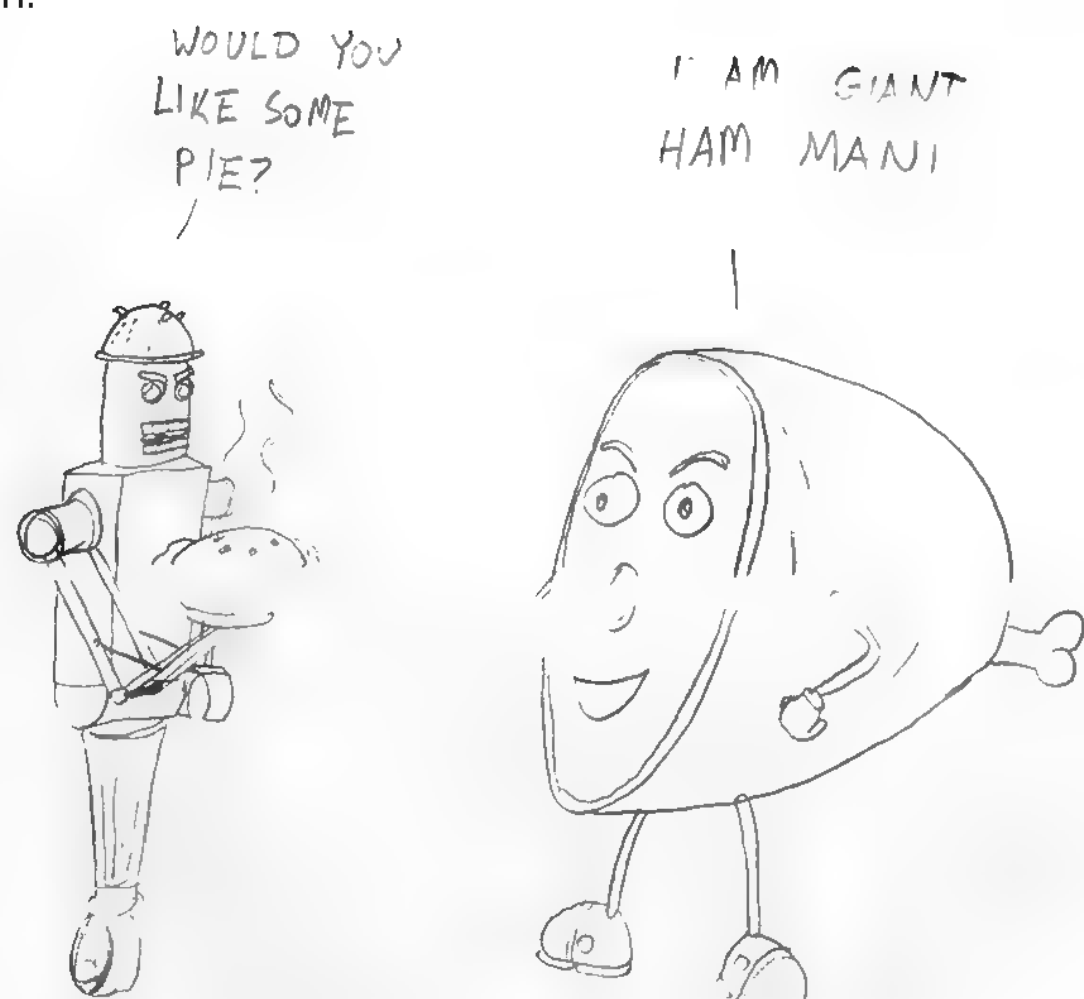
(OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I SKIPPED ALL OF MY MATH 101 COURSES.)

SOLUTION: \$/CLASS = \$20 (YOUR FRIEND WILL ALWAYS ROUND UP.)

"Do you know that for every one of our Basket Weaving 110 classes you sleep through, you're costing yourself \$20?"

The key to negating this tactic is to focus on your mantra. Centre on the credit. Remember, you're not paying for individual classes. You're paying for the end result, a credit towards your degree. And, assuming that you pass the class, your credit will have cost the same tuition as the person who sat in the front row for every session. If you point out to your friends this fact enough, and with the right amount of arrogant superiority, eventually they'll stop questioning your methods. It's likely that they'll stop talking with you or associating with you at all; this works out perfectly, as it makes it easier for you to nap during classes without the distraction.

University is a fairly structured institution, and there are a number of rules and processes that you're not going to be able to avoid. However, you're not completely without influence. Not only can you choose the environment that you will be in, but you can also change how you react within that environment, as first noted by psychologist Sigmund Freud. (Or someone like that. I skipped all of my PSYCH 104 classes.)





### Choosing your environment

The most obvious example of choosing your environment is the act of registering for classes. You've got a wide variety of available courses to choose from and, luckily for you, most programs are forgiving in what you choose to take during your first year. Keep an eye out for introductory psychology, history and sociology classes. They're usually quite large and held in lecture halls, and with advances such as the Internet, most instructors of these courses have place their notes and figures on the Web, meaning that you don't need to try and sweet talk one of your fellow students into lending you notes at the end of term. Another advantage of those classes is that they're in very high demand, and for that reason are offered at many different times. This will allow you to avoid the dreaded 8am class and find something that'll allow you to wake up at a more civilized time, such as mid-evening-ish.

If at all possible, avoid foreign language classes, drama classes and math classes. These courses, while intellectually stimulating, are generally smaller and have more emphasis on essays, exercises and assignments. English classes also are generally smaller and require a lot of essays, but they're a necessary evil. Luckily, many great works of literature have been turned into films, or at the very least, are referenced in films, so you might be able to get away with that.

In addition to picking your classes, you're also able to pick how you get to those classes and where you sit in them. The key to being a successful slacker is to remain hidden in plain sight. Just like the polar bear hiding in the tall snow drifts, the lazy student must use their environment to blend in. However, unlike the polar bear, which waits for the perfect time to strike out at a tasty penguin (or whatever polar bears eat. I skipped my BIO 101 lectures), you're hiding to make it easier to avoid work. Therefore, you must be unremarkable in everything you do. (That's already assumed by the fact that you're reading this guide.)

Do not be late for class, it draws the attention of not only your instructor, but also the entire class. At the same time, don't be the first one sitting down—it makes you easier to spot. File in to the classroom about five minutes before class is scheduled to start. That's when the bulk of people come in. Likewise, don't sit at the back of the room. That's where the people who don't care about their education sit, and everyone knows it. (Of course, by definition, if you're a slacker, you don't care about your education. The different is that right now, you don't want people to be aware of that fact). Don't sit at the front, either. Pick somewhere in the middle of the room, perhaps off to one of the wings, where not much attention is given. If possible, try sitting behind someone tall and large: it makes it easy to avoid attention from the front of the room, while at the same time looking like you just got unlucky with your seating arrangement.

Clothing is another big thing to be aware of. You want to seem generic, like the person in the crowd scene of a movie. T-shirts and jeans are always a good way to go. Try to stay with light blues, browns and greys: drab and uninteresting, just like you are. Hats are generally a no-no, unless they're being used for another purpose. (See sleeping in class). Jackets can be a little tricky: we're a cold weather country, and it's normal for people to wear jackets and coats for much of the year. At the same time, it looks a bit odd when someone sports a parka in the middle of April. Make sure that you're wearing a non-descript coat if everyone else is wearing something, but be ready to discard it as soon as everyone else starts bearing arms.

### Perchance to Dream

Most people know the basic technique behind falling asleep in class. But, since I can't go back to my *Playstation 2* until I fulfill a certain word count, we're going to do a short review here.

The most common position for sleeping unnoticed in class is known as "The Thinker." It's done in steps.

- 1) Lean forward in the seat, with your left elbow resting on the desk, at around ninety degrees.
- 2) Cup your head in your left hand, spreading the index finger and thumb across your forehead. This will cup the hand over your eyes, making it difficult to see that your eyes are closed.
- 3) Place your right hand on the desk, with a pencil gripped between your fingers. The grip on the pencil is one of the most important part of the posture. You want medium pressure, looking as if you are ready to write. If the grip is too light, the pencil will fall on the floor, giving you away. If the grip is too tight, people will think you're having a Grand Mal seizure.

Note: Reverse all hands if you are left-handed.

The Thinker is easy and it's well-known. Unfortunately, that makes it easy to spot to the practiced eye of a university professor. To make your sleeping-on-the-sly just a little more sly, here are a couple of advanced tips.

Hats: A baseball cap can be a valuable asset to the classroom-napper. It can be used to keep your eyes shielded from view, even better than the hand method. But be careful; as noted before, you're going to want to stay inconspicuous. Make sure that any hat you use is generic. Blue is a good colour. Avoid reds and yellows.

An alternative posture is known as the "Great Buddha," after the iconic founder of Judaism. (Or something like that. I skipped all of my RELIG 101 classes.) The Buddha involves crossing your arms over your chest, and leaning back in the seat. Place your chin on your chest, and sleep. A few advantages of this position are that it will seem less conspicuous than the Thinker, and the chin-to-chest posture will cut down on snoring. Just make sure you are wearing a cap, or else your ruse will be found out in no time.

## Not getting caught sleeping in class



Right Way



Wrong Way

### The Final Countdown

So, somehow, against all odds, you have made it through the year and are still enrolled in your classes. Good job. Now comes the toughest part of the whole year: the final. If you've followed the guide, you should have few friends, few responsibilities and, if you are a slacker worth his salt at all, you've got no job to hold you back. Good. Because you'll be spending the next couple weeks in a panic, attempting to read all of your textbooks from cover-to-cover, in a desperate attempt to learn in four days what the rest of your classmates picked up over three months. Hopefully, in the state of mind-numbing terror you will soon find yourself in, you will remember these few important tips.

- Regurgitate. Not only is this what you should be doing when you realize you have three hours to read 2000 pages, but it's also what you should strive to do when you are writing the final. First year is not about critical thinking. First year is about spitting out what your instructor shoved down your throat. Your instructor has undoubtedly mentioned what they thought on a political topic, or what meaning they thought a particular poet was trying to get across. And if it's what they think, then it's what you think—simple as that.
- On that note, the library can be a very helpful tool. Not for research or in-depth analyses of your subject or anything silly like that. If an instructor is teaching a subject, there's the chance that they have written a book or article on the subject. Look for one. If you do, read it and regurgitate, as noted above.
- It's possible for the human body to survive around eleven days totally deprived of sleep. However, in most cases, temporary insanity and serious deficits in concentration and judgement occur after three days. This is important for you to know.

These are the basic elements of a successful slacker. It should go without saying that as your university career will get more difficult, with classes and professors expecting more work and critical thought from you. Most of you will actually learn to put in a little work and actually do what is expected of you, taking a little bit of pride in what you do. But, a select few of you will be lucky enough to develop more advanced slacking techniques; tactics that must be learned, and cannot be taught—mostly because those who know them are far too lazy to teach them.





# @wow

week of welcome 2006

geeks unite  
september 5-10

## TUESDAY

**Orientation Afterparty,  
WOW Kick Off Party**  
All Ages/Licensed  
Powerplant

## WEDNESDAY

**Clubs Fair**  
9:00AM - 4:30PM  
Quad

**Rapid Fire Theatre**  
8:00PM  
Free show. No minors  
Powerplant

**Karaoke Idol**  
9:00PM  
No minors  
RATT

## THURSDAY

**Pancake Breakfast**  
7:30AM - 9:30AM  
Celebration Plaza

**Clubs Fair**  
9:00AM - 4:30PM  
Quad

**Campus St. Jean  
Barbecue**  
11:00AM - 1:00PM  
CSJ Patio

**Beer Gardens**  
12:00AM - 6:00PM  
Performances by DJ Allan  
Suarez, Bebop Cortez  
with The Subatomics and  
guests. No minors  
Quad  
Security provided by SDC & Safewalk

**Taste of the U**  
5:00PM - 8:00PM  
\$2 admission or  
food bank donation.  
Alumni Room in SUB  
Tours by Campus Ambassadors and  
Campus Food Bank

**House of Blues presents  
Matt Costa, with The 88**  
Doors at 8:00PM  
\$16.50 advance tickets.  
No minors  
Powerplant

## FRIDAY

**Pancake Breakfast**  
7:30AM - 9:30AM  
Celebration Plaza

**Clubs Fair**  
9:00AM - 3:30PM  
Quad

**ECOS Bike Check**  
12:00PM - 4:00PM  
Celebration Plaza

**Beer Gardens**  
12:00PM - 6:00PM  
Performances by  
Armchair, Cynics,  
Murder City Sparrows,  
Exit this Side. No minors  
Quad  
Security provided by SDC  
& Safewalk

**Tupelo Honey, with  
Drive by Punch,  
radioforhelp, and  
The Line Atlantic**  
Doors at 8:00PM  
\$13 advance tickets.  
All Ages/Licensed  
Dinwoodie

**Geek Out Party**  
8:00PM  
Costumes encouraged.  
No minors  
Powerplant

## SATURDAY

**Shinerama**  
8:00AM  
Celebration Plaza

**Beat the Geeks**  
8:00PM  
Compete for pride  
and prizes. No minors  
RATT

**Live Music at the  
Plant**  
Doors at 8:00PM  
\$8 Tickets. No minors  
Powerplant

**Sleeping Bag Drive-in**  
10:00PM  
Playing V for Vendetta  
and Serenity.  
Quad  
Volunteers by Safewalk

## SUNDAY

**Bedouin Soundclash,  
with Guests**  
Doors at 7:00PM  
\$20 advance tickets.  
All Ages/Licensed  
Dinwoodie

## featuring

week of welcome 2006

# TUPELO

## HONEY

WITH DRIVE BY PUNCH,  
RADIOFORHELP  
AND THE LINE ATLANTIC  
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH @ DINWOODIE LOUNGE

DOORS @ 8PM ADVANCE \$13 IN ADVANCE  
ALL AGES/LICENSSED EVENT

THE GATEWAY BOOKSTORES CHIANTI FIGURE 402  
IKEA 102.9 modern rock  
Bell SHAW  
A service of your Students' Union for U of A students, staff, and alumni

TOYS  
SINGERS  
SEP  
A  
T

WITH AMY SEELEY, AND NICKELAS JOHNSON  
OF FIELD AND STREAM  
AT THE POWERPLANT  
DOORS @ 8PM ADMISSION \$8 AT THE DOOR NO MINORS

WWW.TOYSINGERS.COM  
WWW.AMYSEELEY.COM  
WWW.FIELDANDSTREAM.CA  
WWW.MYSPACE.COM/POWERPLANTBAR

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS POWERPLANT  
WWW.SU-VENUES.CA  
A SERVICE OF YOUR STUDENTS' UNION  
FOR U OF A STUDENTS, STAFF, AND ALUMNI

bedouin  
soundclash  
radio vacana

ALL AGES/LICENSSED EVENT  
SUNDAY 10TH  
SEPTEMBER  
ADVANCE TIX \$20  
AVAILABLE AT THE POWERPLANT AND SU INFO BOOTHS

BOOKSTORES Bell World FIGURE 402 CHIANTI Hudsons on campus  
DINWOODIE lounge  
A SERVICE OF YOUR STUDENTS' UNION  
FOR U OF A STUDENTS, STAFF, AND ALUMNI  
WWW.SU-VENUES.CA

sponsored by

THE GATEWAY BOOKSTORES  
Sonic 102.9 modern rock  
Budweiser BL  
IKEA  
SHAW  
Bell  
Hudsons on campus  
TRAVEL CUTS  
RBC Royal Bank  
ETS  
UNITED Cycle  
marmot basin  
CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS  
POWERPLANT



Against all odds, your liver has survived the first few days of university life—though the small-town girlfriend is in for some bad news—and so it’s time to hit the streets, to see what grand ol’ Edmonton has to offer.

Now, I know the world outside of campus can be a scary place, but don’t worry, we at the Gateway are here to help. Fortunately, the only decent neighbourhoods that Edmonton has to offer are right on your doorstep: all these places are but a short walk or bike-ride away.

# The Campus Guide to Eating Out



.....(no, not that kind).....

First, however, a caveat—though I’ve tried to be as broad as possible in compiling this list, keep in mind that it’s but one man’s opinion. It’s an opinion that happens to be right, but it’s an opinion nonetheless. Let me, then, declare some biases: I don’t like shitty dance bars; I’m picky about coffee and cheese, but not much else; I try to be a vegetarian for, you know, ethical reasons, but I just love meat too much; I’m an especially big fan of bacon. That’s it, I think. Dig in.

Written by Matt Frehner

**1** **BLACK DOG** \$\$\$  
(10425 - 82 Ave)

When you’re sick of the top-40 rotation at most Whyte Avenue bars, stop by the Dog for some hipster-fuelled pretentiousness. Play some darts, chill on the rooftop patio (if you can find a place to stand) or enjoy some pints of Alberta’s own Big Rock beers, on special every Thursday and at various other times. The newly renovated upstairs and the “underdog” downstairs offer a variety of cozy seating arrangements if you’re sick of bar stools. They also often have live improvised jazz on Sundays.

**2** **DADEO** \$\$\$  
(10548 - 82 Ave)

For a taste of New Orleans without the racial strife and hurricane deluge, head over to this little ’50s-style café. Listen to BB King, Otis Reading or some classics from the Deep South, while you sip your cherry Coke and venture a taste of the complimentary Jalapeno jelly and biscuits. The po’ boy sandwiches are also a huge hit (try the blackened chicken, the pulled pork or the eggplant) and are on sale every Monday and Tuesday. Try them with a side of sweet-potato fries, washed down with a fresh-squeezed lemonade.

**3** **FAT FRANKS** \$  
(10329 - 82 Ave)

It’s 3am. You’re hosed and stumbling down Whyte, and a faint, beautiful smell wafts through the air. Hot dogs. Dismissing everything mom taught you about healthy eating (perhaps something about how, if you ate a dozen hot dogs a month for two years, you’d die), you b-line it for Franks. With a dangerously high blood-alcohol level, what difference is a sleazy meat-stick-in-a-bun going to make? None, that’s what. Try the dog with cheese and bacon (fuck yeah), or if a tube of processed meat/entrails makes you gag, the veggie dog is apparently one of the best in town—or so my vegetarian friends say anyway. I always go for the bacon.

**4** **FOUR ROOMS** \$\$\$  
(137 Edmonton City Centre)

This little jazz bar manages to remain eminently stylish, even though it’s attached to Edmonton’s atrociously designed City Centre mall. Pretend you have a bit of class and take a date here for live jazz and \$5 martinis from 9pm–12am every Friday and Saturday. Get there early if you want to be able to see the band, though. As for the menu, the hors d’oeuvres are good if you don’t want to break the bank, especially the calamari.

**5** **HIGHLEVEL DINER** \$\$\$  
**BREAKFAST \$, LUNCH/DINNER \$\$\$**  
(10912 - 88 Ave)

Unobtrusive, friendly service, high-quality ingredients and great coffee make the Highlevel stand out amongst a heap of other breakfast joints. The weekday menu offers simple, healthy choices, while the Sunday brunch (be sure to get there early, it fills up fast) offers some more extravagant fare. For dinner they offer the basics—meat or veggie burgers, chili, soup and the like—along with some interesting specials. Their cinnamon buns, which they share with the Sugarbowl next door, are fantastic, as is the iced coffee.

**6** **LEVA** \$\$\$  
(11053 - 86 Ave)

If you want to get a decent espresso in this town, there are really only two places to turn: head across the bridge to little Italy, or down the block to Leva. If you’re a sissy and can’t stand strong coffee, or want an extra-special kick, try the *caffé corretto*, a shot of espresso with a dash of sambuca or grappa. Leva also offers some surprisingly delicious *panini* and thin-crust pizzas. Try the *pizza á la Norma* (eggplant and cheese), or come by for a desert of gelato or tiramisu.

**7** **MOSAICS** \$\$\$  
(10844 - 82 Ave)

Remember that Seinfeld episode where Elaine’s investigationalism proves that the new no-fat

yogourt place isn’t no-fat after all (and Kramer dates the sexy laboratory scientist)? Well, Mosaic’s has this chocolate cake that they insist is vegan, but I think we need to run some tests. I don’t have any idea how one would go about making a vegan cake to begin with, let alone one that’s so *fucking* good. If you know of a place on campus where I can get a piece of cake tested, let me know. Oh, yeah, Mosaics also has some other super-good vegan and vegetarian stuff, a casual atmosphere and cheap falafel on Fridays.

**8** **NEW ASIAN VILLAGE** \$\$\$  
(10143 Saskatchewan Drive)

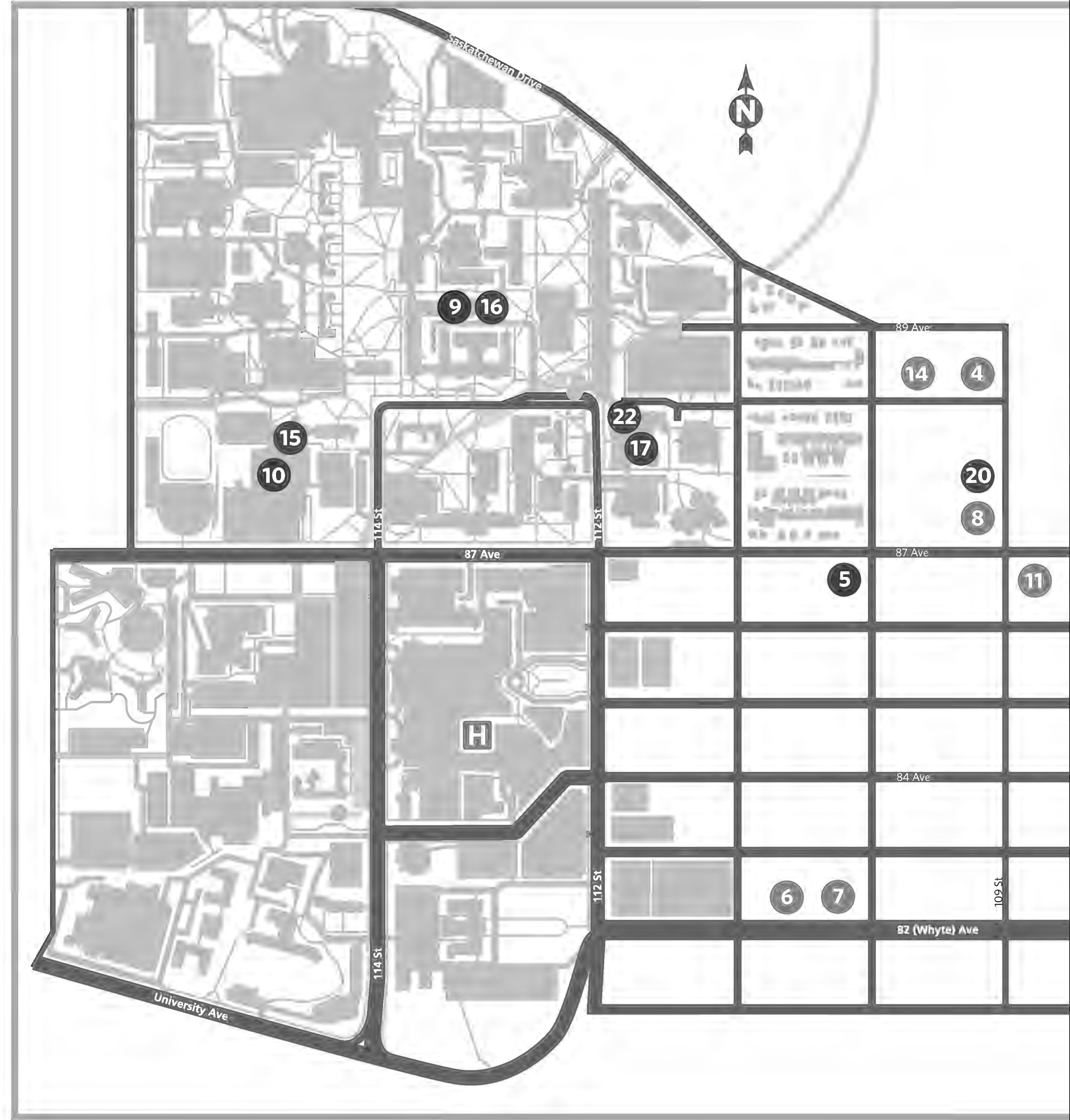
Debatably the best Indian food in the city, New Asian Village offers the perfect blend of traditional and modern atmospheres. The extensive menu offers a range of curries and other traditional dishes: the beef vindaloo and the channa masala are great, as is the garlic nan bread. Or, you could take the easy way out and attend the lunchtime or Sunday- and Wednesday-evening buffets, which offer a bit of everything—including a chocolate fountain. At \$20 a person, it’s not something you can do everyday, but the food-quality is definitely worth it. They also have an enormous selection of international beers. I’m a big fan of the slightly sweet *Heffeweisse* beers from Germany.

**9** **OODLE NOODLE** \$  
(10803 - 82 Ave)

Former U of A president Rob Fraser dreamt of making our school the “Ivy League of the north.” Now, Edmonton may have a bit to go before it can really compete with centres like Boston, Los Angeles or New York. But, in one regard at least, E-town is really no different than the Big Apple and company: we, too, have Asian cuisine in cute little fold-up boxes. Drop a mere \$6.50 (for chicken, tofu or beef) and pretend your living the jetset life of a totally metropolitan, Columbia-attending dude/dudette, rather than busting yours balls at a B-level institution in the backwaters of western Canada. Try the Tokyo Glaze, the eponymous Ooodle Noodle box or the classic fried rice.

.....  
**MORE >>>**





**PHAROAH'S PIZZA**    \$\$\$  
(8708 - 109 St)

I've never really understood why some pizza places cut their pies into squares. Is it a cultural thing? I always feel beaten when I have to go for the middle pieces, like I have no recourse but to obey Grandma's absurd command to eat *everything* with a knife and fork. For Pharoahs, though, the square slicing method is a matter of pure logistics; the cheese is just too thick, the toppings too numerous, for the regular hand-held approach. The ham and pineapple can't be beat, but if you're one of those who doesn't dig meat and fruit on the same pie, go for the vegetarian or the pepperoni. The choice of whole-wheat or white crust is a nice touch, too.

**POWERPLANT**    \$  
(North Powerplant Building, East of CAB)

The more "upscale" of the Students' Union food establishments on campus, the 'Plant has been plagued by poor sales to such a degree that they actually *budgeted* to lose money last year. The fact that a bar on a campus of some 30 000 liquor-hungry undergrads can lose money speaks volumes about the SU's business planning. So, this year, they've decided to try something different, by adding a buffet and a coffee shop, slated to open by the end of September. The jury is out on whether this will turn the ailing business around. However, hopefully the 'Plant will remain a decent place to go for lunch or a beer on the patio. They also bring in some good live shows here and there.

**RATT**    \$  
(7th floor of SUB)

The proprietors of this unfortunately named SU establishment don't seem to understand the principles of marketing—that, or their designer played a dirty trick on them, since their new menus display a smiling, purple rat with a disgusting tail. Not the most appetizing thing, especially when the feature item is called a RATT burger. Regardless, the Room At The Top offers a spectacular 270-degree view of the city from the seventh floor of SUB, accompanied by lacklustre service and shoestring fries. If you're looking for something cheap and deep fried, or a burger and pint between classes, RATT isn't so bad; though the food quality varies a lot depending on how busy they are. Just don't order the "veggie platter," unless you really like mushrooms and celery, and steer clear of Karaoke on Wednesdays until

you're suitably hammered, or you feel like laughing at the expense of others. RATT also shows Oilers games throughout the year. Finally, it's really fun to drink a few pints and run down seven floors in the cement-encased emergency staircase.

**REMEDY**    \$\$\$  
(8631 - 109 St)

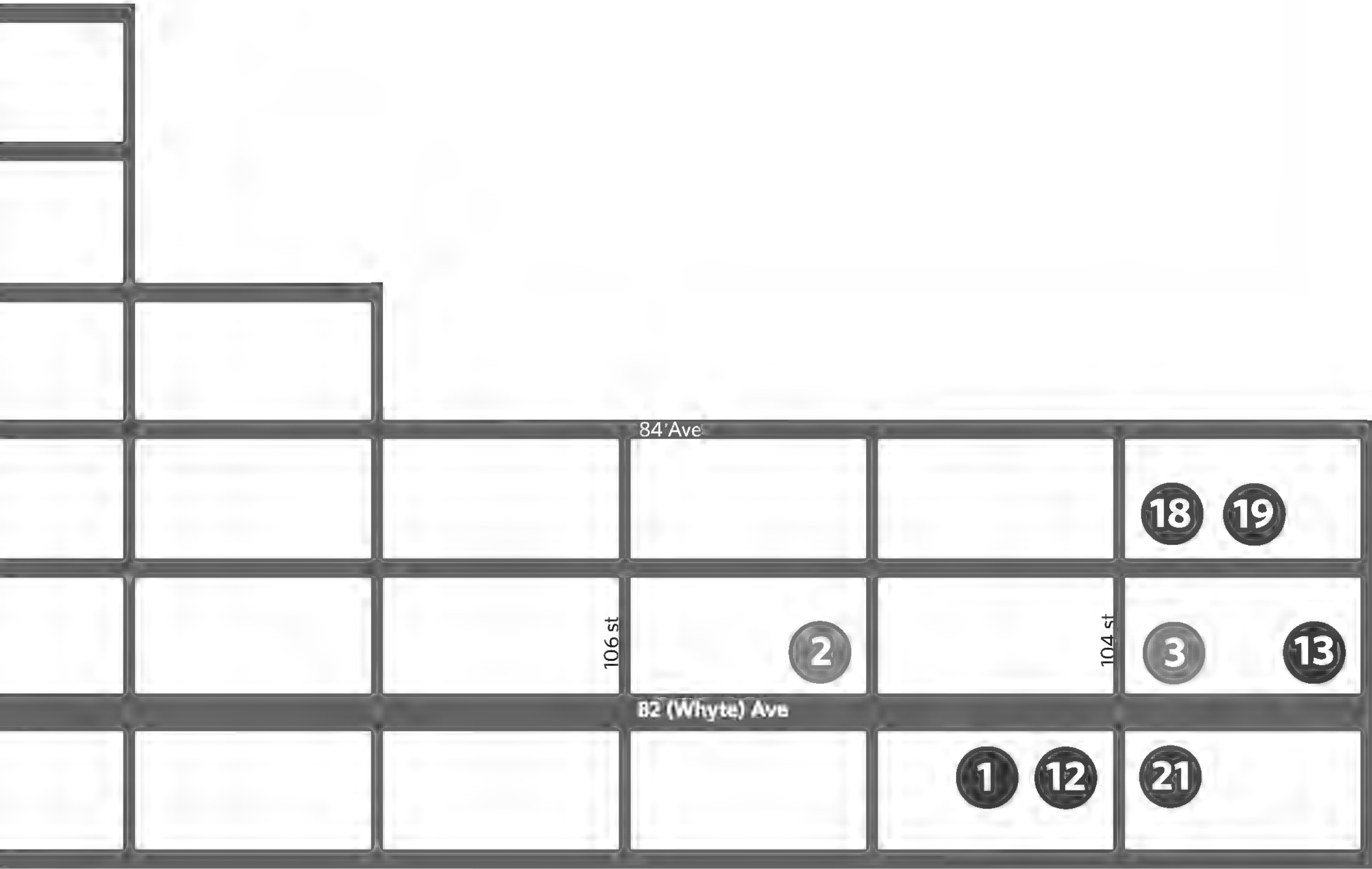
This high-ceilinged, industrial-looking coffee shop stands out from the rest solely because of its tasty and absurdly cheap Indian food. The Vegetarian-friendly channa masala wrap is pretty much a spicy orgasm with sweet dipping sauce on the side, and the homemade chai is fantastic. All the other staples are here as well: tandoori or butter chicken, palak paneer and samosas, all accompanied by beer, shitty local art and free wireless Internet.

11



Legend

- Food
- Drinks
- Entertainment



CAMPUSS

GUIDE

OR: HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND READ THE MAP

**SAM WOK** \$\$  
(101 - 7915 - 104 St)  
If you need more than a hot dog after last call—perhaps to soak up some poison and stop your liver from falling out—it’s time to head to Sam Wok. Some have said that the MSG is what makes the dishes glisten so, but I prefer to think they’re shining with awesomeness. The fare is typical Chinese: try the green-onion cakes or the rice-roll long doughnut, and the Vietnamese-style iced coffee is quite good. Most of the menu is fairly safe; however, though the hot Coke with lemon looks like a strange and exotic choice at 3am, trust me, it tastes like ass.

**SAVOY** \$\$\$  
(10401 - 82 Ave)

Combine classy modernist decor with portraits of Princess Leia and Gorbachev, along with a large

martini menu, and you’ve got the best place to go on Whyte when you feel like donning a suit jacket and playing successful dot-comer. If you’re not into martinis, Savoy also has a good selection of international beers. Try the Bellevue Kriek, a cherry beer from Belgium. They also dress their mixed drinks with gummy candies, often of the Blue Whale or Sour Dino variety.

**STRAT** \$\$\$  
(10302 - 82 Ave)

The Strathcona Hotel is where you will go to get loser drunk after failing that first math test or philosophy exam. It won’t do to go somewhere where you’ll need to dress up, dance or make-out. What’s needed is cheap beer to drown your dwindling aspirations, and crowds of people at least as pathetic as you are. And at \$8.50 a pitcher, the Strat provides.

Now all you need to do is find some friends to play “hot nuts” with (see in-depth instructions on page 13 for how to play) and a great night full of violent arguments and broken souls awaits.

**SUGARBOWL** \$\$\$  
(10922 - 88 Ave)

This unassuming red-brick cafe is a fine place to study and eat a cinnamon bun, but it also offers great breakfast and dinner, and becomes a casual beer-drinking joint late at night—a nice place to go if you want to escape the Whyte Ave throngs and just chill-out over a few pints, while actually being able to converse without gaining a sore throat. As far as the food, try the cinnamon French toast in the morning, or the simple-but-flavorful mac & cheese at night.

**TASTY TOM'S** \$\$\$  
(9965 - 82 Ave)

If you’ve been paying attention, you’ll notice that I’m trying to hit all the cuisine bases with this roundup. Tasty Tom’s is the burger joint. And these are epic burgers.

It’s the kind of place where, if you’re on a date, either you both have the mushroom-garlic burger, or, more likely, neither of you do. If that’s the case, I’d suggest something with bacon, or the deliciously saucy chicken reuben. Not necessarily much to look at (or to watch someone eat) but tasty nonetheless. The ketchup is also homemade and has a bit of a kick, and the fries are home-cut. Bring your appetite, as Grandma used to say.



Now that you're a university student, you'll undoubtedly become a creature of the night, partying until the sun comes up or studying until your head unexpectedly thuds on the open pile of books beneath you—and rivulets of drool begin to pool under your cheek.

However, your nocturnal escapades shouldn't just involve consuming massive amounts of beer or small typed print; the twilight hours are also a time to culture yourself in the ways of music, theatre, art and movies. So, in order to get a head start on your self-betterment and amass some cultural caché, here's a guide to some of the city's most popular (and easy-to-get-to) places to spend your evenings.

Written by Amanda Ash



MUSIC VENUES

**The Sidetrack Café (10238 - 104 Street)**

The Sidetrack Café has been rated as Edmonton's #1 music venue, as well as one of Canada's best places to catch blossoming artists. This past year, the 'Track moved locations, leaving behind over 25 years of history, but it brought the talent along. With big screen TVs, hardwood everywhere and intimate little tables to watch gigs from, it's almost like being in a western movie, except everyone is really hip. And the Sidetrack has a very intimate setting, so musicians aren't afraid to play over their time, chat it up with the audience and heckle everyone into dancing.  
**Type of music:** Ranges anywhere from indie to alt-country, mainly showcases up-and-coming artists.  
**Notable acts:** Pink Mountaintops, Sarah Harmer, The Weakerthans, The Silver Mt Zion Memorial Orchestra & Tra-La-La Band.  
**What people wear:** A lot of university students, as well as older music lovers, frequent the Sidetrack, so it's usually bohemian-style clothing, or just a t-shirt and jeans.

**Starlite Room (10030 - 102 Street)**

The Starlite Room is housed in an historic brick building, specifically the one constructed in 1925 by the Salvation Army to house its northern Alberta headquarters. There are two parts to the Starlite: the first is the Starlite Room itself, which houses larger names and most touring groups. The second is the Velvet Underground, the downstairs bar that features an intimate hole-in-the-wall stage, along with live DJs each night. The Starlite is known for its cool but uncomfortably slanted floor, a feature that allows all the short people out there to have a good view of the stage. The Starlite Room sees itself as a fairly exclusive club, so you'll have to purchase a membership in order to enter the realm of musical pretentiousness. The lineups are notoriously long, and with wide-open spaces to dance and little room for sitting, it's wise to wear comfortable shoes so you can last into the wee hours.  
**Type of music:** Ranges from indie and rock to experimental and dance, usually more mainstream bands.  
**Notable acts:** Metric, Wolf Parade, She Wants Revenge, MSTRKRFT, Chad VanGalen  
**What people wear:** Studded belts, obscure band t-shirts and crazy hair.

**Myer Horowitz Theatre (Main Floor of SUB)**

The Myer Horowitz is a very intimate theatre, considering its moderate size. It has a balcony, and seating is very similar to places like the Jubilee or the Winspear, but it's actual capacity is much less. Still, it has great sound and a lobby to chill in afterwards. The Horowitz is great because it's located on the second level of SUB, so you're never far from the entertainment. However, if you come out of a show, yelling because you can no longer hear anything, or laughing ridiculously because you're giddy with delight, beware: students are studying! You might feel guilty for disturbing their focus on mitochondria energy or quantum physics. Aside from concerts, though, you might grace the Horowitz's halls for the Revolutionary Speaker Series, to watch Students' Union election speeches, or for your little sister's dance competition. Or to convocate, if you ever actually complete that degree.  
**Type of music:** Anything from cultural music to big-name musicians  
**Notable acts:** City and Colour, Neko Case, Hawksley Workman, Hayden, International Week performances  
**What people wear:** It's not a fashion show, so pretty much anything they feel like.

**The Powerplant (113 Street and 90 Ave, behind the Dentistry-Pharmacy building)**

The Powerplant is cool because it actually used to be a power plant. Seriously. The open ceilings and brick walls provide the 'Plant with character and a unique atmosphere that transposes itself onto the artists' passionate performances. Or something like that. There are pool tables, an upstairs sitting area, as well as Dewey's Lounge, which is a separate room you can chill in or rent out for parties. The Powerplant is a bar, so bring your ID. Also, don't forget to say hi to the lovely people working the front door. Chances are, before the first month is done, you'll be on a first-name basis with them.  
**Type of music:** Anything from local artists to more widely recognized musicians  
**Notable acts:** Danny Michel, Shout Out Out Out Out, Stars, Final Fantasy  
**What people wear:** Whatever they wore to their previous class.

THEATRES

**Studio Theatre (Timms Centre on campus)**

Studio Theatre is great because it's right on campus, plus they have student discounts for all of their plays. During intermission, the Timms Centre lobby is the best place to mingle with chic and sophisticated (not snobby, in the least) students, catch up with old friends, or grab a coffee. Studio Theatre is also the place where many of Edmonton's (and even Canada's) most respected artists first got their start, and where the seats are incredibly comfortable. No matter where you sit, you always have a good view of the proscenium-style stage.  
**What to expect:** Great performances by drama students studying right here at the U of A.  
**Notable productions:** *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Beaux' Stratagem*

**Catalyst Theatre (8529 Gateway Boulevard)**

Catalyst Theatre was founded to promote theatre based in social and political advocacy, so much of their fare is issue-charged. They also aim to bring in foreign acts that Edmontonians may not be exposed to otherwise. Very inviting and inspiring, the theatre lobby is minimalistic, giving you a sense of creativity and openness. I know the best aspect of Catalyst Theatre should be something like its black-box stage or versatile set-up, but in fact, the coolest thing about it is the washrooms. They're super cool. Made out of crazy recycled materials and rad lighting, the bathrooms are a must-see, even if you really don't have to go during intermission. But, you know, you should always pee first, just in case.  
**What to expect:** Seeing a lot of regular theatre-goers; low-profile, innovative foreign theatre.  
**Notable productions:** *Famous Puppet Death Scenes*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Blue Orphan*

**Varscona Theatre (10329 - 83 Avenue)**

Located right next door to the restaurant Packrat Louie's, the Varscona is the perfect place to go to if you want to have a sexy dinner-and-a-play date. Inside, the theatre looks like a big hug. Really. It's in a u-shape, and the red seats will bring back the nostalgic feeling of sitting in old-school movie theatre seats. The Varscona is the playing space for a number of Edmonton's oldest independent theatre companies.



# edmonton venues



As a result, it offers a wide variety of productions, from Stewart Lemoine's comedic farces to monthly talk-show *Oh Susanna!* where the host dresses in drag.

**What to expect:** An alternative to going to the bar on Friday nights, Theatre Sports is a late-night improv session that's always good for a laugh. You may encounter some high school kids in the crowd, who may have indulged in a marijuana cigarette or two before the show, so don't be shy to get in on that action—if you condone such degenerate behaviour. Or, for a more subdued but still hilarious spectacle, check out the long-format improv show, Chimprov, every Saturday evening.

**Notable productions:** *Evelyn Strange*, Theatre Sports, Chimprov

## Walterdale Playhouse (10322 - 83 Avenue)

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The Walterdale is right across the street from the Varscona, giving you even more choice than you can shake a stick at. It features comfortable seats and looks fairly new, considering it once used to be a fire hall. If you have any friends who are into drama, either at the U of A or in their spare time, chances are they'll be in a Walterdale production sometime within the year.

**What to expect:** Lots of very friendly people. The plays performed at the Walterdale are all community theatre, meaning everyone working there is a volunteer and is interested in having fun.

**Notable productions:** *The Rez Sisters*, *King Lear*

## Citadel Theatre (9828 - 101A Avenue)

The big, bad brother of Edmonton's independent theatre scene, the Citadel Theatre offers your standard big-stage, big-name affairs, from Shakespeare, Shaw and company, to its yearly musical and production of *A Christmas Carol*. The Citadel has two main stages, the thrust-style Maclab and the proscenium-style Shocter, allowing for more versatility in their productions. The third, smaller space, the Rice, offers up less mainstream productions aimed at 30-somethings. You can also buy those delicious Häagen-Dazs chocolate-dipped ice-cream bars at intermission.

**What to expect:** Decent but rarely innovative productions of classic or well-known works, and the occasional gem that proves that big performances aren't all bad.

**Notable productions:** *Proof*, *Einstein's Gift*, *Wit*

## Edmonton Opera (9720 - 102 Avenue)

Housed in the Winspear Centre, Edmonton's only opera company puts on four shows each season. Largely, they stick to the oldies like Mozart, Verdi and all those other Italian or German dudes, but they also run more modern

or contemporary operas from time to time. Though expensive, the spectacle is often worth it—and what better way to show a girl you have class than take her to the opera before bringing her back to good old Four Henday, which just happens to be right next door. They also offer rush student tickets, and student subscriber rates that entitle you to free beer and pizza.

**What to expect:** Loud singing in foreign languages.

**Notable productions:** *Filumena*, *Turandot*, *The Magic Flute*

*Note: Many, if not all, theatres here in Edmonton offer student pricing, pay-what-you-can evenings or special discounts for certain days of the week. In addition, six local theatre companies—Northern Light Theatre, Shadow Theatre, Fringe Theatre Adventures, Catalyst Theatre, Walterdale Playhouse and Workshop West Theatre—have teamed up to create a Theatre 6-Pack, a pass that gives you access to six plays for only \$76. It's a great way to see theatre at various venues, as well as a chance to visit the city's arts scene them if you are unfamiliar with it or from out of town. Theatre 6-Packs are on sale now, and you can purchase them at Tix on the Square.*

## MOVIE THEATRES

### Garneau Theatre (8712 - 109 Street)

20

It has been said that the Garneau theatre is haunted. It has also been said that the Garneau has the world's best popcorn. Coincidence? Well, whether or not you believe that ghosts make that buttery goodness or not, you should know that the theatre has an awesome balcony, and that it's the home to the annual showing of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, as well as numerous foreign films. In addition, Pharaoh's Pizza is right next door, so if you don't like ghost-handled goodies, you can still afford to grab a delicious bite to eat, thanks to the student discount you get on tickets.

### Princess Theatre (10337 - 82 Avenue)

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Of course, Whyte Ave is renowned for its numerous bars and such, but there's another form of entertainment hanging about on the old street that doesn't involve as much bass. That, my friends, is the Princess Theatre. The Princess features two different spaces—one up and one down—as well as great indie films, comfy seats and an old-school curtain that goes up before the show. A real theatre experience, indeed! The Princess is great because it provides student discounts, \$5 tickets on Mondays and screens *The World's Hottest Commercials* annually.

### Metro Cinema (9828 - 101 Ave)

In a way, the Metro Cinema is hidden. It's tucked away in the corner of the Citadel Theatre, but that doesn't mean it's not well used. The Metro features foreign and independent films, as well as older reels, from the classic to the obscure. They will also often run retrospectives of significant directors and genres—so keep an eye out if you're into spaghetti westerns, Kurosawa or the like.

### Empire City Centre Cinemas

If you're looking for your plain old Hollywood movie, and you don't want to wait for it to go onto DVD, City Centre Cinema is the best place to go. Easily accessible by city transit (unlike most of Edmonton's other movie theatres), it usually has all of the newest films playing—plus you can do some shopping before or after the show.

## ART VENUES

### Art Gallery of Alberta (2 Sir Winston Churchill Square)

Slated for a snazzy renovation sometime soon, the Art Gallery of Alberta (formerly the Edmonton Art Gallery) is a woefully ugly art gallery that occasionally houses interesting exhibits. The permanent displays are largely not worth it, so be sure to check into what's currently being displayed before you head down.

### Latitude 53 (10248 - 106 Street, Second Floor)

Latitude 53 Society of Artists is a not-for-profit artist-run centre, giving both artists and the public access to new and experimental art forms. If you're interested in visual arts, Latitude 53 also offers seminars and workshops to keep you up-to-date with all that's happening.

### FAB Gallery (3-98 Fine Arts Building, U of A Campus)

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On the main floor of the Fine Arts Building, you'll find a gallery that displays the work of current BFA or MFA students, and is used to showcase the thesis work of Masters students. It's free, and a good way to pass half an hour if you miss your bus or are feeling particular uncultured one afternoon.

### Some Whyte Ave-area coffee shop

All around the University area are coffee shops and restaurants that display work by local artists. Often atrocious and overpriced, they serve well as awkward-first-date conversation pieces, allowing you to fill the silence and gauge your potential mate's taste at the same time.



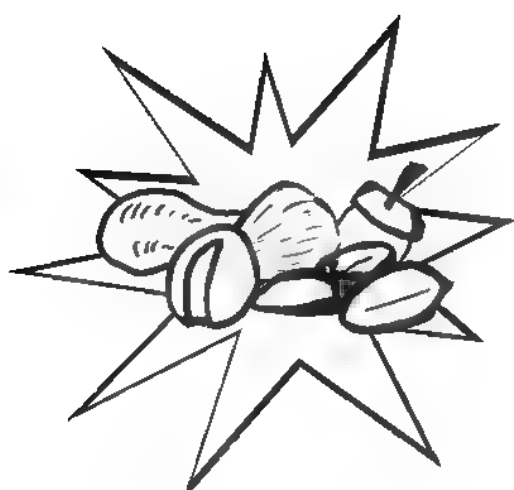
**KNOWN  
HOT SPOTS  
FOR  
SLEEPING  
STUDENTS**





# and now ... HOT NUTS!

## STEP 1:



**GET:** Beer, honey-roasted peanuts, a hatred of sobriety

## STEP 2:



**FILL:** Glasses to an equal measure

**COUNT:** To three

**DROP:** A nut into your beer

## STEP 3:



**DRINK:** If your nut is the last to surface. Repeat until blind.

This supplement was brought to you by the Gateway's editorial staff, with pictures by Phil Head, Cosanna Preston, Mike Otto, Josh Nault, Krystina Sulatycki, Jenny Frogner, Lauren Stieglitz and with illustrations by Mike Kendrick and Matthew Barrett.



## THE GATEWAY

thursday, 31 august, 2006  
volume XCvII issue 1

Published since 21 november, 1910  
Circulation 17 000  
ISSN 0845-356X

Suite 3-04  
Students' Union Building  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6G 2J7

Telephone 780.492.5168  
Fax 780.492.6665  
Ad Inquiries 780.492.6700

E-mail gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca

## editorialstaff

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Matt Frehner  
ec@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 5168

**MANAGING EDITOR** Chloé Fedio  
managing@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6654

**SENIOR NEWS EDITOR** Natalie Climenhaga  
news@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 7308

**DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR** Scott Lilwall  
deputynews@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6664

**OPINION EDITOR** Adam Gaumont  
opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6661

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR** Amanda Ash  
entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 7052

**SPORTS EDITOR** Paul Owen  
sports@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6652

**PHOTO EDITOR** Krystina Sulatycki  
photo@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6648

**DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR** Mike Kendrick  
production@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6663

**DESIGN ASSOCIATE** Ela Przybylo  
desgnass@gateway.ualberta.ca

**ONLINE COORDINATOR** Mike Otto  
online@gateway.ualberta.ca

## businessstaff

**BUSINESS MANAGER** Steve Smith  
biz@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6669

**AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE** Patrick Cziolek  
sales@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6700

**AD/GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Lisa Lunn  
desgn@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6647

**CIRCULATION PAL** Scott C Bourgeois  
circulation@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492 6669



THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS), a student-run autonomous association not-for-profit organization operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian Journalism Press.



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## colophon

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## contributors

Kim M. Sukk, Anna Thompson, Bill Lunn, Edmon Rotea, Tim Peppin, Ross, in not writing the who's lucking section. Prusakovsk, Matthew Barrett, Joni Kmech, Elizabeth, Tyson Durst, Jessica Warren, Kristina DeGuzman, Dana Kaszor, Cara Kautla, Nick A. Ede, Ane de Sapo, Renato Pagnan, Chris O. Lear, Andrea Renfree, Ramon Ostad, Derek Larson, Phil Head, Chris Krause, Nick Snostak, Matt Lunn, Lisa Dane Haydon, Ashley Scarlett, Aeyang Lu, Jenny Frogner, Michael Mynarz, Josh Nault, James Leung, Lauren Stegitz, Tara Stegitz, Aenna Reitsma, Jackson Hinton.

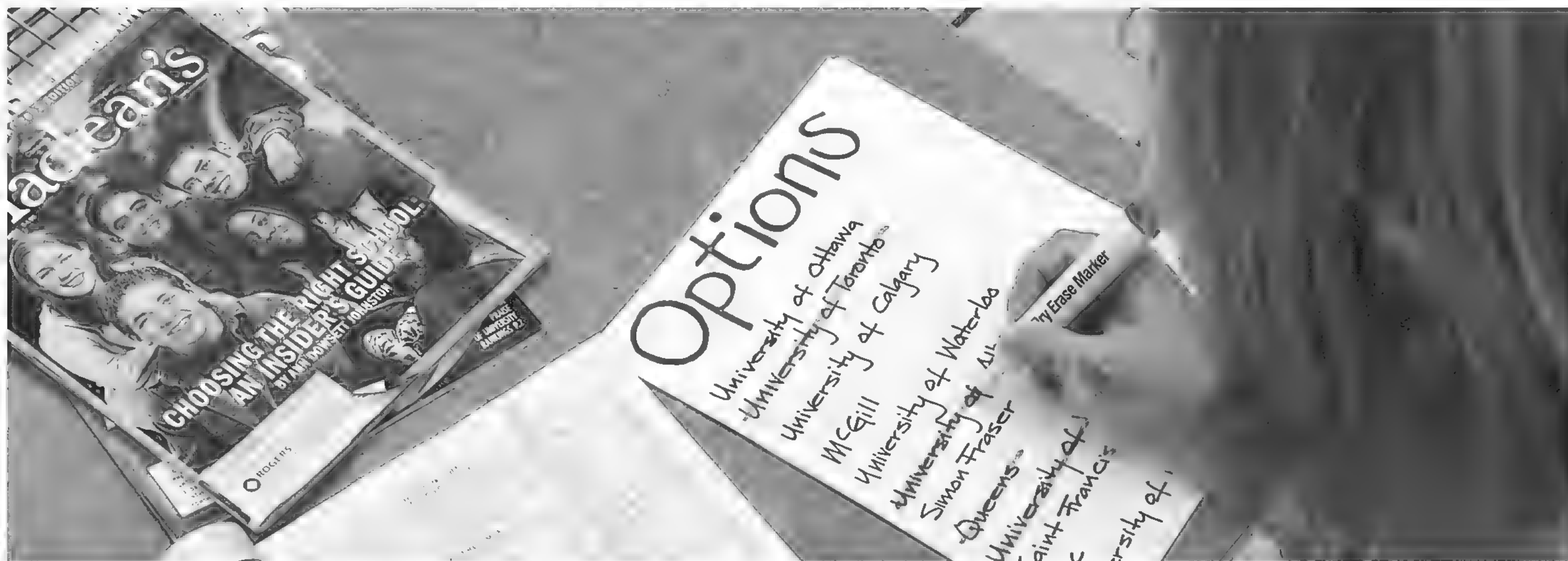


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: ASHLEY SCARLETT

**CHOICES, CHOICES** So far, twelve universities across Canada, including the U of A, have told *Maclean's* they want out of the magazine's annual education review.

Universities drop out of *Maclean's* survey

Presidents at Alberta's three universities say rankings leave province at a disadvantage

CHLOÉ FEDIO  
Managing Editor

While the "Alberta advantage" is a suitable label for the province in most respects, when it comes to university rankings, Canada's richest province says it's being slighted against the rest of the nation.

On 14 August, presidents from eleven of Canada's universities sent a letter to *Maclean's* magazine indicating that they would no longer fill out the questionnaire required to create the magazine's annual university rankings issue, due to what they called an "oversimplified and arbitrary" methodology. And, though the signatories represented institutions from coast to coast, all three of Alberta's universities made a firm stand together on specific issues.

Dr Alan Harrison, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) at the University of Calgary, explained that one main source of contention, shared by all Alberta institutions (not including Athabasca University, which has never been included in the rankings), was the manner in which *Maclean's* calculated university entrance grades, which is weighted about eleven per cent among all of the elements assessed.

"The issue is quite straightforward: it has to do with whether the reported grades for students in one province are directly comparable with the recorded grades in another province," Harrison said. "If you just stack them up side by side, Alberta is disadvantaged."

University of Lethbridge President William Cade said that even though Alberta high-school students have the highest national average in mathematics and language efficiency tests, because provinces have different percentage points for As, entry grades for Alberta universities seem lower than they are in reality.

"Because of grade inflation, some other provinces' universities have higher rankings than the Alberta students, even though the Alberta students are top-notch by all other measures. Grades are a big deal with us—how the magazine gages them—and they've never really addressed that issue at all," Cade said.

Tony Keller, managing editor of special projects at *Maclean's*, agreed that Alberta's complaint is valid, however, he argued that there was no practical solution so far.

"They actually make a good point on this: it is an area that has to be studied," Keller said. "I asked the University of Alberta to provide me with a proposal: I'm still waiting. This is a problem that requires a 200-page solution and all I've gotten from them is one sentence."

Furthermore, the challenges for reforming the way *Maclean's* measures entrance grades extends beyond Alberta, Keller said, pointing to Dalhousie, a university that gets more than a third of its students from outside of Nova Scotia.

"I just don't know how to deal with this. I'm a journalist—I don't run Statistics Canada," Keller said.

PLEASE SEE *MACLEAN'S* • PAGE 4

Letter signed by eleven universities blames flawed methodology for decision to end participation

WILLIAM WOLFE-WYLIE  
CUP Atlantic Bureau Chief

SACKVILLE, NB (CUP)—Tony Keller is the managing editor of special projects at *Maclean's*, working in the same department charged with putting together the annual university rankings. He first heard that eleven universities were pulling out of the annual feature when an *Edmonton Journal* reporter called his office asking for a comment. But that was only the beginning.

"It was very convoluted," said Keller about how he received the letter, which was signed by eleven university presidents. After several other media outlets called him asking for comment, he became concerned that he hadn't yet received a document that seemingly everyone else had. "I asked several universities to please send it to me," he said.

*Maclean's* annual university rankings has withstood criticism for 15 years, but now eleven universities from across the country have declared that they're not going to take part in the 16th survey, stating that the methodology used to compile the statistics is flawed and delivers an oversimplified view of their institutions.

The following universities officially withdrew their support from the magazine's rankings in a letter dated 14 August, 2006: Dalhousie University, McMaster University, Simon Fraser University, the University of Alberta, the University of British Columbia, the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge, the University of

Manitoba, the University of Montréal, the University of Ottawa and the University of Toronto.

The letter stated that the methodology used to compile a large number of statistics into a single ranking and that the magazine was comparing "apples and oranges."

The University of Northern British Columbia, for example, was rated eighth overall in 2002 when it had achieved top marks in library acquisitions while falling to the bottom of the pile in scholarships and bursaries.

"When it lumps all these categories together into a single ranking, arbitrarily assigning more points to one category than another based on its own idiosyncratic judgment, it fundamentally misrepresents the character of every institution," said Dalhousie University President Tom Traves.

But Keller disagrees. He points out that overall averages are exactly how universities grade their students and that this, as well, can sometimes fail to properly represent the student. What *Maclean's* is doing is little different, he argues, but it does turn the tables.

"The universities are saying that you can't combine a bunch of grades together into a grade point average. Right," said Keller in a phone interview. "It's the equivalent of a student submitting their transcript," he added.

The 2006 issue of the *Maclean's* university rankings will feature 47 universities, including the universities who have decided not to participate, and will hit newsstands on 2 November.

**STUDY HARD  
THEN PARTY HARDER  
AT THE IRON HORSE**

**BIG CITY NIGHTS LONG WEEKEND  
EDMONTON  
THE UNIVERSITY MIXER**

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD**

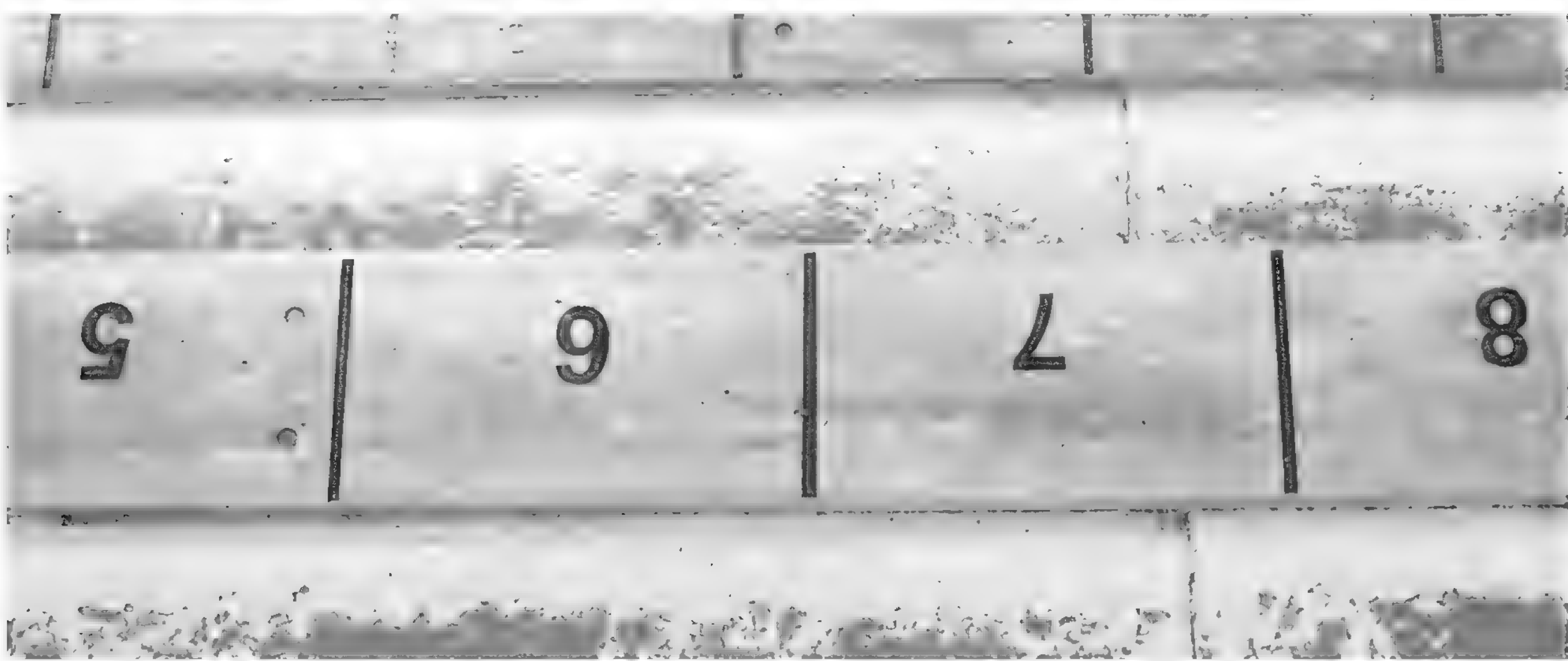
Logos for IRON HORSE, SOUL PUS, and MOLSON CANADIAN are visible at the bottom.





# U got Schooled

## P-Ow shows you H-ow



Hey there, Captain First-Year. I know you've only been on campus a short while, but perhaps you've noticed the giant, yellow building on the southwestern part of campus. This, and the attached complex are known as the Butterdome and Van Vliet Centre. Hell, if you're in Phys Ed, you're probably sitting inside it right now, reading this little piece. This is the hub of campus sports here at the University of Alberta. Now, you're probably thinking you know all there is to know about sports. After all, you were the star centre on your high school team in Kindersley. Well, guess what? You don't. Lucky for you though, I do.

Written by Paul Owen

### THE REAL BASICS

If your Orientation leaders have gotten around to teaching you the "U of A" chant, then you probably have no clue what they mean when they say "Golden Bears" and "Panda Bears." Here at the U, those are the terms that are affectionately used to refer to the men and women, respectively, who participate in varsity sport. Also, if you are a male, you can probably refer to yourself as a Golden Bear when referencing where you go to school. If you're a female, stick to Panda, since they aren't really bears at all (your Orientation Leaders lied to you). I know it might seem a little overwhelming that we have different names for our different genders, but it could be worse: everyone, including the women, could be the Wesmen.

The Golden Bears, despite their moniker, generally don't wear gold. More often they wear green or white with gold trim or piping. This may seem like a bit of a misnomer, but the Bears are so successful that they're often found wearing more gold around their necks. The teams' mascot is GUBA, the Great University Bear of Alberta, whose psychotic grin and all-green attire has been scaring children for decades.

The Pandas women—that's right, our female teams are now the women's teams, not the girls' teams—are represented by a snarling Panda logo that just happens to be missing eyes. Not that it matters because Pandas see using sound. They're like bats that way. Patches is the beloved Pandas mascot, and unlike her male counterpart, is actually enjoyable to have hanging around games.

Alberta currently participates in eleven women's and ten men's sports. Both sexes partake in basketball, volleyball, hockey, soccer, swimming, cross-country, track and field, wrestling and tennis. The women also play field hockey and rugby, while the men get football. This makes it so there's roughly the same number of female athletes as there are male. Isn't equality grand?

Alberta's strongest sport is hockey, where both the men and women are defending national champions. The volleyball teams are also perennial powerhouses, while the rugby team has won five of the seven national titles, and is coming off a silver medal. The field hockey team is also on a high after a Cinderella-run to a national championship last season.

While it may seem as though Alberta is good at everything, recent years have seen struggles from the swimming programs, the Pandas basketball team, the Pandas cross-country team and, last year, the wrestling teams.

For only four bucks, with your student ID, you can catch any game on campus. Volleyball and basketball inhabit the Main Gym, which is currently in need of a hip name change, while hockey takes place right next door in Clare Drake Arena, which is in desperate need of not being an ugly, uncomfortable shit-hole. Football, soccer, rugby and field hockey take place at Foote Field, just south of campus, while tennis has the Saville Sports Centre. Wrestling and Track take place inside the Butterdome.

### INTRO TO CIS

With the exception of tennis, all of the sports played at the U of A are considered Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) events. This is because all of them hold a CIS national championship.

CIS is composed of four conferences: Atlantic University Sport (AUS) for the Maritimes, the Québec Student Sports Federation (QSSF), Ontario University Athletics (OUA) and Canada West, which includes all schools west of Ontario. CIS schools must be a member of one of the four conferences, and must declare for at least one male and one female sport. In addition, member universities this year will pay a \$1800 membership fee as well as a sport-specific fee for each that the school partakes in—football is the highest at \$923, while cross-country is the lowest at \$151. Schools also pay a travel-pool fee and a coaches' association fee for each sport.

CIS athletes are given five years of eligibility, as well as the ability to sit out—or red-shirt—a year. They are subject to drug testing and must maintain a 60 per cent average in their courses. Now, lest we shatter the traditional conception that athletes are known for their academic leanings and superior intellect, keep in mind that 60 per cent is a lot harder to attain in university than in high school. They're also required to take a minimum of three courses every semester in which they're competing, for a minimum of six in the year. Student athletes who maintain an average of 80 per cent or higher are recognized as Academic All-Canadians. Alberta had 141 of these last year.

These eligibility requirements often come into effect at the U of A. In the 2004/05 hockey season, Doug Auchenberg failed a drug test and was kicked off the team that would go on to win CIS gold. All-Canadian basketball player Robbie Valpreda was unable to remain academically eligible at the U of A and completed his postsecondary career dominating at Grant MacEwan.

Tennis, as I mentioned earlier, is not a CIS sport, but rather part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), a predominantly American association of smaller schools. Many Canadian schools do participate and thrive in NAIA sports. Simon Fraser has a top diving squad, and UBC boasts one of the best NAIA baseball programs.

### GOOD SPORTING TO YOU

So there's your crash course in Pandas and Bears sports. I hope you realize that this means you have to go to some games now—it's the law on campus. And professors give better grades to those of you with school spirit. Also, there are rarely ever cheerleaders at games, but don't be discouraged: there's this thing called the A-Team that runs around in green jumpsuits with giant gold As on the front and gives out free stuff to a lackluster crowd. I bet they didn't have *that* in Kindersley, now did they?



## GAMES TO WATCH

### **12 September, 2006: Bears hockey vs Edmonton Oilers Rookies**

The annual rookie game will give you a chance to see Marc-André Pouliot, Robbie Schremp, Ladislav Smid and all the other Oiler hopefuls get their tails whipped by the Bears. Happens every year.

### **1 October, 2006: Pandas soccer vs Victoria Vikes**

The Pandas finished fifth last season while hosting nationals and they look poised to put up a strong season this year. The Vikes are the defending national champions and obviously feel comfortable playing on Foote Field, having won their banner there in November.

### **12-14 October, 2006: Bears volleyball Can-Am Challenge**

This was the highlight of last year's entire Gateway sports crew. The top

four Canadian volleyball teams face off against the top four NCAA for bragging rights.

### **21 October, 2006: Bears football vs Saskatchewan Huskies**

The Huskies have been the only thing keeping the Bears from a conference title the past two seasons, and these two squads should once again be at the top of the pack this season in Canada West.

### **2-3 December, 2006: Pandas volleyball vs Calgary Dinos**

The Dinos have been tough on the Pandas the last few years and this one should be no different.

### **5-6 January, 2007: Bears basketball vs Calgary Dinos**

Of the last seven games these two teams have played in Edmonton, only one didn't come down to a last shot opportunity.

So now that you know how everything works, you're going to want to know which games are the best to see. Alberta's biggest rival is actually the Saskatchewan Huskies, not the Calgary Dinos, mainly because the Dinos aren't good enough to be on the same field/court/ice as us. That's right, Calgary sucks. Even you Calgarians reading this know that. That's why you came here in the first place. As such, any matchup versus the Huskies is worth marking down on your calendar. Or, you could always just follow this handy-dandy list to see what's worth watching.



Written by Krystina Sulatycki



### **A WORD ON CAMPUS RECREATION**

We can't all be varsity athletes. Fortunately, we can all stay active on campus thanks to the plethora of activities available through the U of A Campus Recreation programs, which can help you avoid the dreaded "Freshman 15." Between intramurals, not-for-credit classes and activity clubs, not to mention the fitness centre and pool, there's something for everyone in Van Vliet.

Intramurals begin almost as soon as classes do, so keep your eyes open for the first postings either on the bulletin boards in VV or on the web. Fall co-rec sports include ultimate frisbee, volleyball, badminton and walleyball. Many more women's and men's sports are available. And, don't think for a second that you can saunter in on the last day of registration and still get your team signed up. All sports have a limited number of teams that can register and they fill up fast.

A great way to fill the hours between classes is with a little yoga or any of the other not-for-credit courses. Hone your climbing skills, tone your (insert appendage here), or brush up on your self defense skills all on campus and within your budget.

The gym can be something of a zoo to navigate through your first time, so be sure to ask the friendly people at the desk about sign-in procedures if you are unfamiliar with them. You can sign most cardio equipment out for a half hour or risk being booted off in the middle of your work out. Rush hours, between noon and one and 3:30-6:30, are best avoided but, if you must, try signing out the equipment you want in the morning to secure a spot. If you have the luxury of time, try coming at 6am or, if you are less of a morning person, 7-10pm usually sees a slow down in traffic.

Activity clubs are a great way to stay fit and meet people with common interests. If you miss their booths during orientation you can find contact info and URL through the campus rec website (<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/campusrec/clubs.cfm>).

So now you know the ins and outs of campus sports. There is no excuse for being lazy when there are so many entertaining things to be doing. No matter how obscure your sporting interest is, someone at the University shares it—all you have to do is find out who they are.





You've probably got tons of textbooks to pick up at the campus bookstore, so some shelving might be in order. Whatever you're looking for this school year, Canadian Tire has it. From handy storage solutions for all that heavy reading, to highlighters and coffee makers so you can make it through crunch time. Strapped for cash? Tell your folks about our reloadable gift card. **A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR STARTS AT CANADIAN TIRE.**







LEFT PHOTO: JOSH NAULT

## The Gateway's best and worst of

# summer 2006



### GROUP COMMENTARY

So, that's it, folks; the summer of 2006 has come and gone, leaving us to reminisce about days passed under old oak trees and nights spent in someone else's bed. But before you start kicking yourself, wishing you had taken a picture of your friend's face stuffed with three bags of mini donuts, or that you had recorded your uncle having a drunken conversation with a newspaper box, read on: the Gateway's illustrious A&E writers have documented the best and worst moments in summer entertainment, just for you to look back on when you're senile. Think of it as our version of "Summer of '69."

### MATTHEW BARRETT

#### **Best: Street Performers Festival**

The Street Performers Festival is one of the few opportunities outside a Social 30 class to bust out the term "cultural mosaic." The acts at the festival were as diverse as the performers themselves, and the cultural influences each brought to their craft only amplified the creativity of their shtick. From outlandish dances to acrobatics, puppetry and illusion, the Street Performers festival was a panacea against boredom. The only real downside to the Festival was certain performers' callous haranguing of the audience for ridiculous amounts of money. Even still, the festival managed to remain one of the highlights of the summer.

#### **Worst: Miami Vice**

*Miami Vice* doesn't come close to Michael Mann's other work. It doesn't have the anxieties and tensions of *Collateral*, nor does it have the fleshed-out characters of *Heat*. And even though it's a movie that was marketed as dealing with identity, the most the audience gets in

way of depth is stunted conversations between Foxx and Farrell that are usually resolved with monosyllabic affirmatives, the occasional grunt or an overly protracted silence. The character relationships are about as flat as the plot developments, both of which only start going somewhere during the last leg of the film. Before that, though, you're pretty much watching Colin Farrell pout for two hours.

### JOHN KMECH

#### **Best: The Road to Guantanamo**

In the four long months of summer, I was witness to several good concerts and movies. Since I am forced to choose one as the best, I will go with the one that was the hardest hitting, emotionally speaking: the docudrama *The Road to Guantanamo*. Telling the story of three British Muslim brothers imprisoned and interrogated at Guantanamo Bay for two years, then released without charges, the film delivers a powerful and sobering message about the state of human rights in the world during the war on terror, forcing you to think about where exactly the line should be drawn. If you're anything like me, you will likely leave the movie educated, which is how political documentaries should affect us all.

#### **Worst: Little Man**

While *Snakes On A Plane* was definitely over-hyped for its sheer badness, the worst entertainment award has to go to *Little Man*. The Wayans Brothers—who, it must be reminded, used to be funny—have truly hit rock bottom, taking the lowest common denominator to levels below those achieved even by *White Chicks*. What resulted was a movie so mind-bogglingly stupid that it makes me wonder how anyone could enjoy it without having a complete frontal lobotomy. How do scripts like this get green-lighted? Oh, right, they pull in a healthy box office receipt, in this case almost \$60 million. It's the same way Rob Schneider pays the bills. Not to mention that the whole script was plagiarized from a

far-superior Warner Brothers cartoon. The Wayans can next be seen elevating the comedic bar in witty and completely unpredictable ways in *Pretty Ugly*, a film where a fashionable socialite wakes up one day to find herself ugly. No doubt, it will likely be up for nomination for the worst of summer 2007.

### ELIZABETH VAIL

#### **Best: Little Miss Sunshine**

No one saw him wailing the names of *American Idol* winners while horrifying amounts of hair were waxed from his body, or expressing his disappointment about how the lava lamp he drank didn't contain any lava, but many of us did witness Steve Carell prancing his way onto what is the highlight of the summer movie season. Propelled by a wisp of a road-trip plot, *Little Miss Sunshine* chugs forward on the marvellous comedic talents of suicidal, gay Proust scholar Carell, harried mother Toni Collette, motivational speaker/dad Greg Kinnear and heroin-snorting granddad Alan Arkin. With a family on the skids forced to endure long drives, bad rest stops and endless spats to register the daughter Olive (an appealing Abigail Breslin) in the titular beauty pageant, first-time feature directors Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris demonstrate that the family that steals-cadavers-and-gets-their-freak-on-to-Rick-James together, stays together.

#### **Worst: The Devil Wears Prada**

This was the summer of the bad book adaptation. Based on Lauren Weisberger's spiteful *roman à clef*, *The Devil Wears Prada* had all of its deliciously catty claws worn off by its tumble through the Hollywood machine, emerging as a fluffy marshmallow girl-power version, as cloying as its plot was hypocritical. The result of trying to please everybody is that nobody ends up satisfied. Even Meryl Streep's turn as editrix Miranda Priestly is given a saccharine explanation for her divine bitch-goddess behaviour (awww, another divorce? How sad). It's hard to take themes

of uniqueness over conformity seriously when they're packaged in a film as obviously test-screened and commercial as this one.

### EDMON ROTEA

#### **Best: Little Miss Sunshine**

The story about a dysfunctional family coming together in order to get their young daughter into the finals of a beauty pageant is easily the funniest and most heartwarming family movie to be released in years. With an ensemble of characters consisting of a drug-using grandfather, his motivational-speaker son and his estranged overstressed wife, as well as a suicidal, gay brother (Steve Carell) who has trouble communicating with his Nietzsche-fanatical nephew, the only happiness in the life of seven-year-old Olive (Abigail Breslin) is becoming a finalist in the Little Miss Sunshine beauty pageant. Breslin is a scene-stealer with her cuteness, innocence and genuine down-to-earth personality—traits that help her character reveal the artificialness and absurdity of children's beauty pageants. *Little Miss Sunshine* is a film with a lot of heart and soul. It's the classic story of a family uniting together to overcome adversity—and triumphantly succeeding in the end.

#### **Worst: Miami Vice**

Fans of the '80s television series and those expecting a fun action flick will be bitterly disappointed. The film's dark and gritty look, gruesome shoot-out scenes and violence that oozed from the trailer make *Miami Vice* look like a winner. However, trailers can be misleading. What's most disappointing, though, is watching the movie begin in the middle of the story itself, leaving audiences to partake in too much mental work, trying to figure out the plot, the characters' relationships with each other, and what's happening during each scene. Even worse is the fact that Detective Ricardo Tubbs (Jamie Foxx) is more of a minor character in comparison to the villain, Collin Farrell's on-screen love interest, Isabella (Gong Li). With the film's slick-looking cars, fast

planes, speedboats and cool clothes, *Miami Vice* is a film that's nice on the eyes, but in terms of narrative, it's not fun to watch.

### TYSON DURST

#### **Best: Fringe Festival**

The award for the best piece of entertainment that I witnessed this past summer in our fair city goes to the Fringe Festival, which marked its 25-year anniversary. From the moment I entered the Fringe grounds on a perfect Friday afternoon full of sunshine and deep-fried lollipops, I was mesmerized by belly dancers, intrigued by magicians, and dazzled by the creativity and talent of various buskers—while in awe at the colossal amount of food available in deep-fried format. Add to this the main attraction of live theatre appealing to a wide range of tastes and interests, and you've got a festival loaded with more fun than a helium-filled balloon wrapped in cotton candy. And, eBay aside, where else can I buy a customized Bruce Lee light-switch cover as a souvenir of my Fringe fun?

#### **Worst: Superman Returns**

Sadly, *Superman Returns* turned out to be a rehashed, weaker version of *Superman: The Movie* that simply wastes the villainous potential of Lex Luthor and the talents of Kevin Spacey. I was hoping that Bryan Singer, who jumped the *X-Men* money train, would put his own stamp on the iconic character in the same way that Christopher Nolan reinvigorated the Bat franchise with last year's *Batman Begins*. But, instead, much of the script was pretty much recycled from the original film. However, Singer did give us a pile of over-the-top religious imagery and subtext that points to Superman really being Jesus in a cape. I suppose that might be more palatable to some audiences than the idea of a super-powered illegal immigrant from another planet, co-created by a Jewish Canadian, walking among the American public under a secret identity and disguise. Just put on a pair of glasses and—whammo! Invisible! Take that FBI!





# 88 groovy ways to hit the musical top

LA pop-rock quartet The 88 are still unsigned, but that's not stopping them from gaining exposure on their own

## The 88

With Matt Costa  
Thursday, / September at 8pm  
The Powerplant

JESSICA WARREN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The retro revolution is in full swing, but unsigned LA-based rock group The 88 can't be accused of milking the genre just because it's becoming more and more popular. They've been making neo-oldies music for over a decade, and rather than being motivated by the prosperous musician's lifestyle that stems from following a particular music trend, The 88 are finding that their love for tunes truly has been their key to success.

"A long time ago, we went through the phase of drinking and drugs and things like that, and actually, it ended up hurting us," says The 88's keyboardist Adam Merrin. "We broke up for a year. It was a really dark time, so it was great to be able to come out of that and begin playing music again, and now be able to do it very clear-headed, with the ability to remain focused and

to stay away from all that.

"I got into drugs by reading Beatles books," Merrin continues. "I mean, they glorified [drug use] and I knew about how they'd take LSD and then record. So, I was always curious about it, and I looked up to them so much. They were my favourite band. I wanted to live that lifestyle, and I started getting into other '60s bands, and, as you know, drugs were just a part of the way they lived. As a kid aged 14 or 15, I looked up to it and really wanted to live like that."

Since cleaning up their act midway through their career, The 88 have undertaken successful venture after successful venture. Their self-produced CD sampler made it into the hands of Josh Schwartz, creator of *The OC*, and thanks to the appearance of one of their songs on the show's soundtrack, the band has been in high demand by other prime-time dramas, as well as by fans who are flocking to see their energy-laden performances. The sharp, pinstripe-wearing quartet—consisting of Merrin, Keith Slettedahl (vocals, guitar), Todd O'Keefe (bass) and Anthony Zimmitti

(drums)—is apparently a welcome change from other '60s-clad bands that spend their time being cooler than their fan base.

"We're really not much of a message-oriented band," Merrin explains. "For us, it's more about having a good time. I mean, our shows are really fun and lively, and people love to just sing and dance when we play. We're just really about having a good time and meeting our fans. We're very approachable, and we love talking with people after a gig."

This band-next-door mentality seems to be working for this four-some that denies that art and pop songs can't work together. While their music is catchy, Merrin remains convinced that the esoteric side of The 88's music isn't to be missed by their listeners, or, ironically by The 88's future selves.

"The funny thing about our music is you can go back to your lyrics after a certain amount of time and it will have meaning," Merrin says. "I think it's just like a stream of consciousness,

and when we go back and listen to what we wrote, we might think to ourselves, 'Oh yeah, I was talking about this at this point in my life.' So our songs do have a meaning; it's just at the time we write a song, we don't realize it."

After over a decade of self-promotion and personal battles, it seems like The 88 are poising themselves for a success that's both artistically valid and drug-free—a kind of success the masses, and their moms, can truly appreciate.

## THE 88 SPILL THEIR SECRETS

It's obvious that The 88's success has been hard-won, especially since the band is still without a label. With over a decade of music making under his belt, Adam Merrin knows the know-how on giving budding musicians advice on getting their name out to the people who matter. Here are some tips:

"There's enough room for everyone out there who wants to make a living

playing music. One of the best things we ever did with the band was make CD samplers of a couple songs off our first record, and pass them out all around town. It worked. We noticed there was more and more attendance at our shows."

"We'd also go to venues where bands were playing and where we thought the fans would also like our music—like

Supergrass, the Foo Fighters, Rooney and Modest Mouse. And, at all these local shows, we'd go and pass out CD samplers. People would go home and listen to it, or listen to it in their car with their friends, and it really worked. Plus, you meet a lot of people that way, people in the industry too."

"The Internet is good, too: Myspace is a great way of getting your name out there."

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# Haunting a familiar place

*Phantom of the Opera* is returning to Edmonton once again, and according to actor Bruce Winant, the old ghost still has its charm, humour and passion

## Preview: *Phantom of the Opera*

30 August to 24 September  
Showtimes vary  
Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium

KRISTINA DEGUZMAN  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It has been almost 20 years since *Phantom of the Opera* first opened in London, and, recently, it has surpassed *Cats* in total performances, making it the longest-running Broadway production. Indeed, *Phantom* is the grandpa of musicals, having toured our fair city more often than it hasn't, but despite its continual return to Edmonton and the numerous reproductions that typically follow, there's no doubt that the timeless story will once again attract sold-out audiences.

"The story is so universal," explains actor Bruce Winant, who plays one of the Paris Opera House managers, Monsieur Firmin, in the American production currently touring Canada. "It's a great old Victorian romance, and I think that touches a lot of people."

Stressing the forbidden choices that linger about this extraordinary tale, Winant says that he understands the conflicts that emerge between his character and others. In addition, he firmly believes that they're what drove its mass appeal for so long.

"The Phantom is not a bad guy," Winant says. "You actually feel some people hope that Christine and the Phantom get together. She's torn between her two loves—Raoul, the viscount who rescues her from the Phantom, and her love and respect for [the Phantom], who deeply loves her and who's just ... insane!"

Winant's cheerful, easygoing persona is undoubtedly a reflection of his role. Monsieur Firmin is one of the silly characters who, despite his scepticism, provides relief in all of the craziness that occurs in the opera house.

Having been in two other long-running plays, *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*, the third time's a charm for Winant, who has always wanted to do *Phantom of the Opera*. Similarly, he's thrilled that nothing has really been done to diminish the grandeur of the production, so he can enjoy—from an insider's perspective—the legacy that is *Phantom*.

**"As a kid, you watch Phantom and you go, 'Oh, cool, look: the chandelier is flying and the smoke and the explosion and the Phantom is shooting fire!' As an adult, you get more involved in the story."**

BRUCE WINANT

"Nothing has been scaled back," Winant says. "Many tours that go out now—hit shows—are scaled back to save costs but this production is a hundred per cent the same as the one on Broadway."

"To hear a live orchestra, hear the singers doing it right in front of you and not in a recording studio

where their voices can be altered and changed—that live theatre experience is unlike anything else," Winant says, comparing the live production to the movie. "It's magical because you get to see the story unfold before your eyes as opposed to having it been done five years previous on a sound stage. It's like: why would you go see Green Day in concert when you could just play the album? It's the same kind of thing."

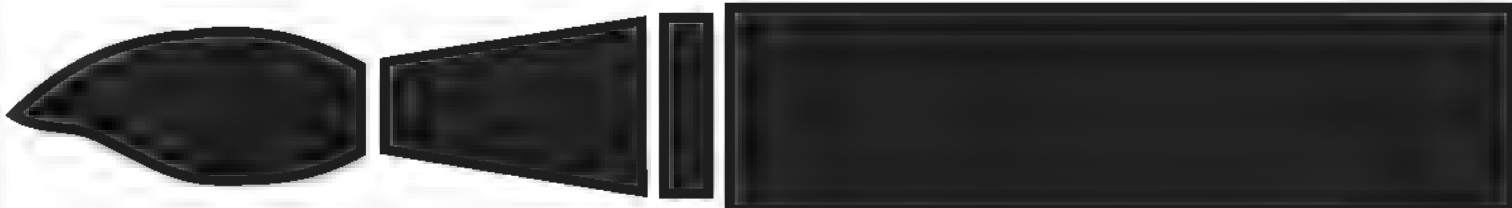
Speaking of music, *Phantom's* catchy rock-beat numbers play a definitive role in its longevity, and also appeal to young people even though they might not understand the history or impact the show has had. The original cast album even reached number one on Britain's music charts, becoming known as "the British invasion of pop opera."

Winant also admits that his favourite audience is college students. Having taught a seminar at the University of Michigan, he feels inspired when he hears students say how they had grown up listening to *Phantom's* music, and how it inspired them to delve into the theatre world. However, despite his bias towards what sort of onlookers he hopes to attract, Winant knows that *Phantom* will continue captivating all sorts of individual interest levels.

"As a kid, you watch *Phantom* and you go, 'Oh, cool, look: the chandelier is flying and the smoke and the explosion and the Phantom is shooting fire!'" As an adult, you get more involved in the story. It's been fascinating to meet people after the show backstage. People have seen the show twelve, 13, 14 times. They get something out of it each time."

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# Snakes: motherfuckin' awesome!

## Snakes On A Plane

Directed By David R. Ellis  
Starring Samuel L. Jackson, Julianna Margulies, Nathan Phillips, Rachel Blanchard, Flex Alexander and Kenan Thompson  
Now playing

EDMON ROTEA  
Arts & Entertainment Staff



Just as the old expression says "never judge a book by its cover," the same also applies to movie titles—never judge an upcoming film by its title, no matter how preposterous it may sound. Despite its simple, self-explanatory title, pre-release criticisms and hype, the airborne action-thriller *Snakes On A Plane* delivers not only tons of snakes, but also tons of excitement.

While the film's title is blatantly indicative of the plot, *Snakes On A Plane* at least gets points for its originality, inventiveness and cheesiness. The film opens with a scene of a picturesque Hawaiian excursion: sandy beaches, bikini-clad women, sexy female surfers, tanned bodies and, well, more images of bikini-clad women.

The film starts with what most consider the vacation of a lifetime—that is, until it turns into a nightmare for Sean Jones (Nathan Phillips) when he witnesses the brutal murder of his father, a Californian state prosecutor, at the hands of LA-based gangster Eddie Kim (Byron Lawson) and his thugs. The event prompts FBI operative agent Neville Flynn (Samuel L. Jackson) to seek out and protect Jones, who may be the one and only key witness to finally testify against Kim for all his crimes,

even if it means Flynn must fight off hordes of snakes on his return trip from LA.

During the tortuous flight, Flynn not only has to deal with the venomous creatures; he must also contend with whiny passengers, dead pilots, plane malfunctions, de-pressurized cabins and even more snakes. While the plot may wear thin at first, there's never a dull moment throughout the entire movie.

*Snakes* uses the formula of previous B-grade action thrillers. Those films, from *Night of the Living Dead* to *Tremors*, have always involved a group of unsuspecting individuals suddenly under attack by creatures that just happen to have a taste for human flesh. As a result, the attacks prompt the remaining survivors to seek out safe refuge and fight off the creatures one after the other as they struggle to find a safer place. This generic plot line, while overused, benefits the film's nar-

rative. Watching it is a lot like indulging in one of life's guilty pleasures, like eating an entire tub of premium-brand ice cream, or consuming an entire box of chocolates. Viewers will constantly crave and look forward to the next minute—or snake bite—no matter how predictable or ridiculous the plot becomes.

Again, like most B-movies, *Snakes On A Plane* is complete with gruesome and unsettling death scenes that will make most viewers flinch, and perhaps fear snakes—or flying coach—after seeing this film. The movie is complete with breasts, physical humour, lots of Samuel L. Jackson ass-kicking scenes and tons of soon-to-be-classic one-liners.

While *Snakes On A Plane* isn't an Oscar-worthy film, at least it's good enough to not win any Razzies. Even though it shouldn't be taken seriously, it's still a fun film to watch from beginning to end—and more entertaining than the average in-flight movie.

## Vengeance trilogy's sympathetic finale

### Sympathy For Lady Vengeance

Directed by Chan-wook Park  
Starring Yeong-ae Lee, Geum-ja Lee, Min-sik Choi and Mr. Baek  
Metro Cinema

DANIEL KASZOR  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

*Sympathy For Lady Vengeance* is one of the most arresting movies to be released in theatres this year. It's a brutal, poignant, sickening and heartfelt story, guaranteed to entice audiences more than any other movie slated for release in upcoming weeks.

*Lady Vengeance* begins as Lee Geum-ja is leaving prison. 13 years before, she had killed a boy in a botched kidnapping. Now, after seemingly being reformed in jail, she has turned her back on the pastor who "cured" her temperament, and is hoping to seek vengeance on those who wronged her. Helping her are several women she befriended during her time in prison, where she was known only for her kindness.

However, that synopsis doesn't fully explain the true nature of the film; it's so much more than a simple narrative. *Lady Vengeance* works almost as an opera, with visual crescendos and sometimes non-linear expressions of emotion. And as the visual symphony progresses, director Park Chan-wook begins to layer the story with dimensions that he had barely hinted at throughout the film's rather flat and standard revenge set-up.

*Lady Vengeance* is the third in Park's "vengeance trilogy" (the first two being *Sympathy for Mr. Vengeance* and *Oldboy*), a series of movies not



narratively related, but tied together through an overall theme of being wronged, the reprisals to those wrongs, and the effects those reprisals have on the soul. However, in comparison to the last film in the trilogy, *Oldboy*, where Park's style ran rampant and into hyperbole, *Lady Vengeance* maintains an emotional grounding and realism that lends a contrast to the film's narrative and visual flourishes.

The praise for the emotional foundation can't be given solely to Park, though, as the lead actress playing Geum-ja (Lee Yeong-ae) performs with such nuance and believable emotion that it's oftentimes impossible to think of the movie beyond her performance, even when Park has staged a particularly interesting or stimulating scene. It's this performance, alongside an overall more nuanced approach to filmmaking than in Park's previous efforts, which elevate the movie beyond its predecessors.

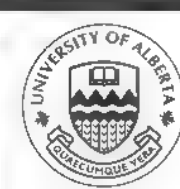
It should be noted that because of Park's sometimes outlandish style, and because of the speed at which the

Korean subtitles slip by, it can sometimes be difficult to follow what's going on. However, the overall gist of the story, and its overall moral, aren't hidden by confusing moments—like when viewers try to decipher exactly who all periphery characters are and what they're doing in their particular scenes.

Yet, this quibble is minor, and in truth, doesn't affect the movie that harshly. *Lady Vengeance* is a film that needs to be worked at and digested, but really, the foreign language is just another aspect of cinematic exploration. The same goes for the brutal, but never gratuitous, violence that sometimes appears in various scenes throughout the movie.

Even though, in the end, Geum-ja is forced to face her own sense of guilt over the wrongs she has caused in the world, *Lady Vengeance* shows its true nature as a film not focused on revenge, but on redemption. And in that same way, the "vengeance trilogy" ends on a note that is introspective and hopeful, if not a little bit sad.

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# Bookfair cooks up awareness

## Anarchist Bookfair

1-3 September  
Queen Alexandra Hall

JESSICA WARREN  
Arts and Entertainment Staff

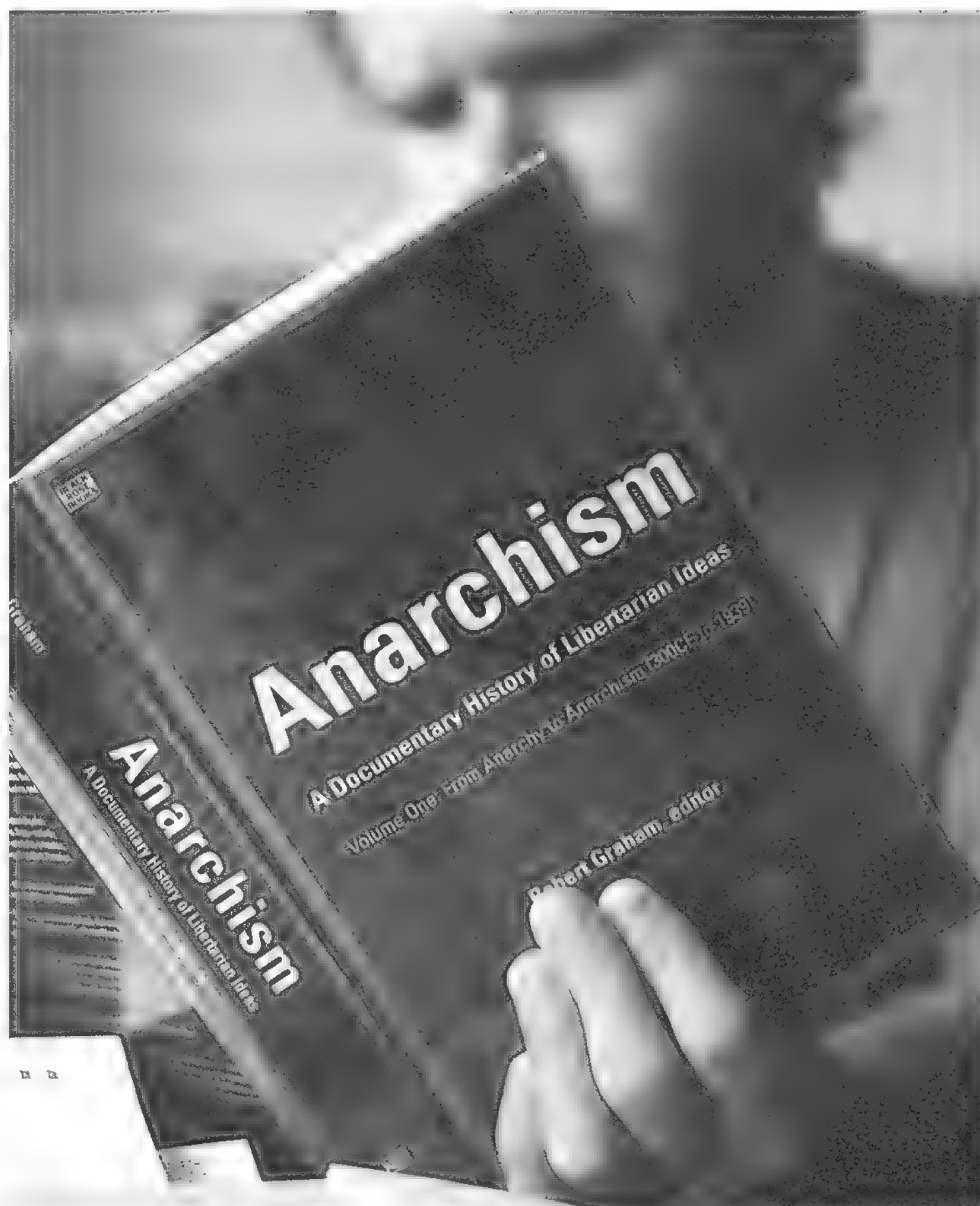
The next time you see hastily-scrawled “anarchism” graffiti staring at you from the other side of a bathroom stall, know this: it’s just trying to educate you.

“A big part of the anarchist political philosophy is education,” remarks Sean Boomer, an anarchist and organizer for the fourth Edmonton Anarchist Bookfair. “The bookfair is meant to be open to everyone. A big part of the reason we do it is to show people that anarchists aren’t scary people. We’d like to dispel some misconceptions.”

Boomer is the antithesis of the stereotypical “radical” on the political left. Softspoken and polite, he has an understanding of what his politics might look like to those on the outside, and is eager to explain the theory of anarchism, in which very little has anything to do with our cultured image of punks and criminals following the mantra of “anarchy in the UK.” There are anarchists who refuse to vote because they consider it to be a validation of an inherently corrupt system, and there are anarchists, like Boomer, who vote in order to make the best of a bad situation.

“The funny thing about anarchism is it’s a very disperse political philosophy,” Boomer explains. “People who attend the Bookfair will be presented with a wide variety of different people, different workshops and presenters, and different ideas. Plus, it’s a great place to meet contacts—especially if you’re new—you’ll be able to see what kinds of anarchist and anarchist-friendly organizations are in the city.”

And Edmonton, as it turns out, isn’t really a bad place for an anarchist to live, despite the stereotypes held about “conservative” Alberta. In his five years of organizing various events, which includes four Bookfairs, Boomer says there hasn’t been a backlash against it.



ALEENA REITSMA

In fact, there has been an unexpected amount of support—support from corners we might not usually identify as anarchist-friendly.

“The *Edmonton Sun* actually had quite a sympathetic article on us last year,” Boomer recalls. “The *Edmonton Journal*, too. I think people overestimate the conservativeness of Albertans. We have a long-established Conservative government here, but if you talk to Albertans as individuals, we’re all over the political spectrum. If you talk to people who are Conservative, they’re not really too Conservative. They vote for the party for all sorts of different reasons.”

Pure conservatism, it seems, like pure anarchism, doesn’t exist. However, there’s always room for people to improve upon their political knowledge.

The Anarchist Bookfair carries books on environmentalism, politi-

cal philosophies and other subjects not related to the defamation of public property or shocking old grannies with spike-ridden jackets and unconventional hair colors. Boomer likes to emphasize the event as being a place for the open exchange of ideas, rather than as the direct preaching from those who know to those who are there to learn.

“The Bookfair has a festival sense to it, and when you’re at that kind of event, you’ll be more likely to pick up something you might not normally pick up,” Boomer says. “It’s important for activists, as well as other people, to pick up a book of general literature, say, to improve their writing or their ability to relate to other people. One of the things you’ll find is that most vendors are—how should I put it? They’re very friendly, off-the-wall people. Most of us are just really interested in talking about these ideas.”



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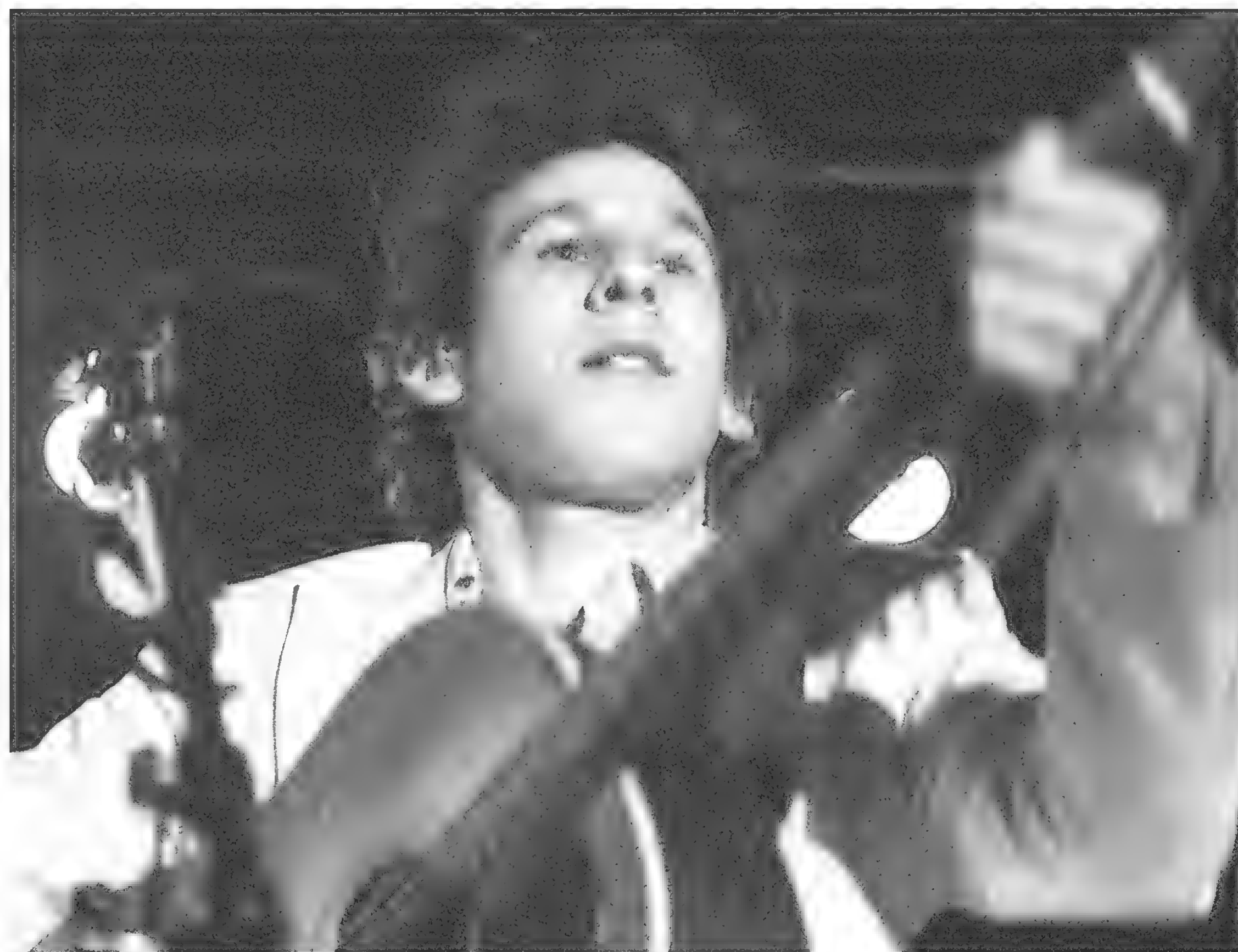
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*Classy & Sassy*



AMANDA ASH

**I WANNA CATCH YOUR DISEASE** Australian singer/songwriter Ben Lee hopped about like an energetic kangaroo last Thursday at the Sidetrack. The sold-out crowd wasn’t your typical audience for the venue; giggling girls wearing their Lee swag scampered about (mainly pressed against the stage to get closer to the charmer), but that didn’t stop him from spilling out his pop-rock heart. Lee also claimed to be bringing sexy back, and by the end of the performance, I was sold.



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CARLA KAVINTA

Arts &amp; Entertainment Writer

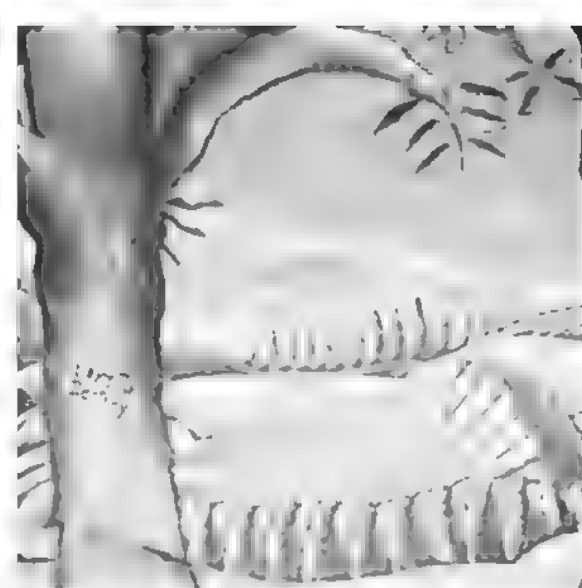
After countless practice sessions in grungy, dilapidated basements and incessant touring gigs across the country, The Dudes have finally ascended from obscurity. Well, sort of. Although many may be unfamiliar with the Calgarian indie-rock quartet, these four talented musicians are quickly becoming a

must-see band.

Appropriately titled, their most recent album, *Brain Heart Guitar*, successfully draws in the music junkie with its feel-good melodies and sincere lyrics. With undeniably catchy songs like "Mendoza Line (Whoa Caroline)" pitted against the honest emotion of "Love is Dangerous," The Dudes skillfully balance the comedic with the serious.

Lyrics like "Don't talk while we're making love" prove that these dudes don't take life too seriously, while lines like "If you've got to leave me / baby let me go" portray a sort of innocence and vulnerability. But don't be fooled by the romanticism and heartfelt vocals; loud electric-guitar riffs are interjected throughout many of the songs, creating a heavier texture, all the while adding a touch of '90s nostalgia.

It's safe to say that these boys are a refreshing departure from the usual Nickelback-esque bands emerging from Alberta, even though many of their better songs are the products of past work, like their *Beepuncher EP* or *This Guy's The Limit*. But still, if I had to complain about something, it's that they just had to be from Calgary.

**Ours To Destroy**

Ours To Destroy

IndiePool

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NICK WIEBE

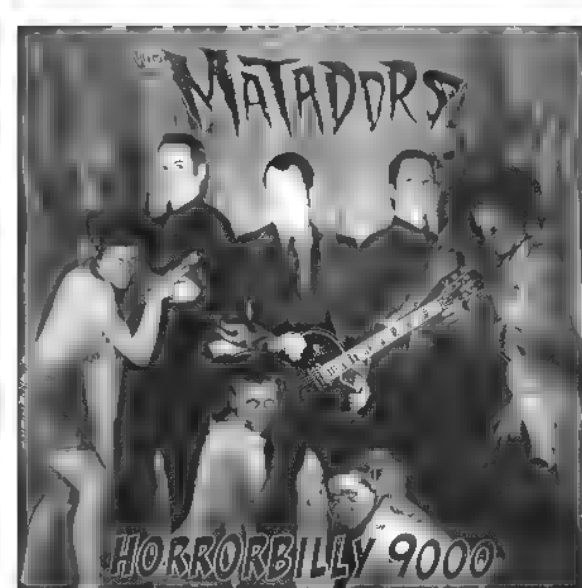
Arts &amp; Entertainment Staff

a blender," an awkward metaphor that nevertheless accurately captures the failings of their debut, self-titled album.

*Ours To Destroy* isn't unlistenable in the least, but it never really develops any presence, either. Although there are some exceptions, particularly the songs "Unglued" and "Skipping Rope of Daisies," there aren't many tracks that can actively hold a listener's attention.

Perhaps the problem is that Dave Morely, the lead vocalist, has a thin, quavering, Dylan-esque voice that simply fails to support the album. That said, after a few listens I found myself enjoying some of the more eccentric songs and arrangements featuring—among other things—snatches of Native American chants and a sound bite from a George W Bush speech.

Overall, *Ours To Destroy* isn't a bad album, but the group might need a little extra something to make themselves stand out in the future.

**The Matadors**

Horrorbilly 9000

Stereo Dynamite

[www.thematadors.net](http://www.thematadors.net)

ARIELLE SABOV

Arts &amp; Entertainment Writer

If the psychobilly genre has the capacity to be formulaic, then The Matadors have captured this

ability in *Horrorbilly 9000*.

For those who aren't too familiar with psychobilly, it's a term used for music that's not easily describable—it's kind of like "Elvis meets punk." *Horrorbilly 9000*'s lyrical content fixates on horror films and lewd exploitation, and this band does *not* let you forget it. Track after track, lead vocalist Hooch Parkins wails on about the "Walking Dead," "Demon Riders," "Teenage Zombie Sluts" and his "Bad Mojo" when the only real "bad" thing this singer/guitarist has got going for him is his miraculous ability to generate cheesy song titles.

Even giving this album a once-over is somewhat strenuous. Musically, *Horrorbilly 9000* is inoffensive, but the creative life behind the songs is just somewhat lacking. Admittedly, The Matadors have an awesome reputation for wicked live shows including stage effects and high energy, but unfortunately, it seems that without the booze and fireworks, this particular set is a dud.

**G Love**

Lemonade

Brushfire Records

[www.philadelphonic.com](http://www.philadelphonic.com)

RENATO PAGNANI

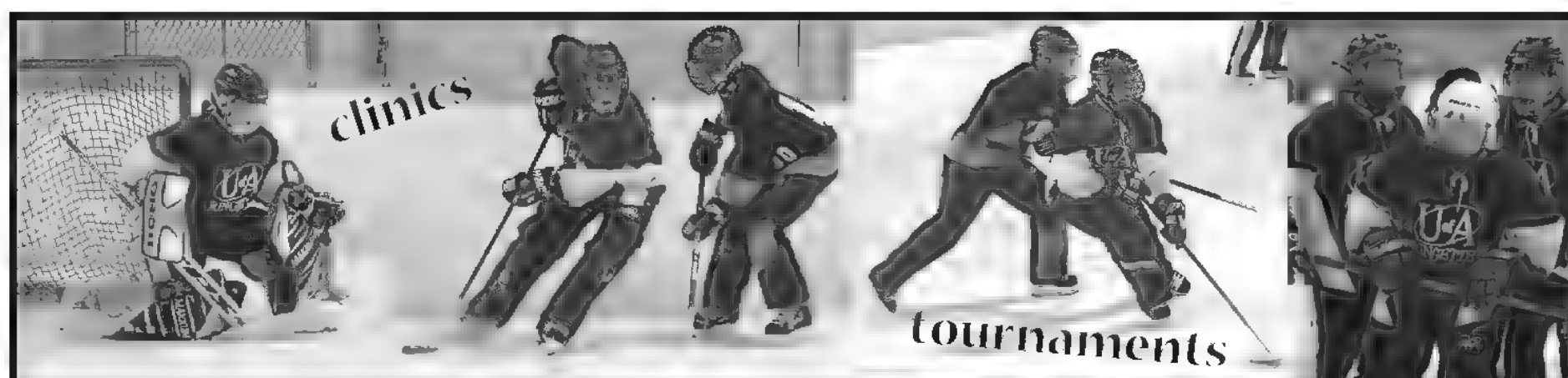
Arts &amp; Entertainment Writer

*Lemonade* sounds suspiciously similar to what Jack Johnson seems to be doing nowadays—just bluesier with salient hip-hop influences. But then again, the two are friends, and G Love (born Garrett Dutton) is signed to Johnson's Brushfire imprint. The folk sounds of Philadelphia

are definitely apparent in Dutton's songs, which speak of predictable subject matter like the pitfalls of touring, living life well and stymied love. However, on his own, one can tell that G Love's songs groove as one would expect, without too much of Johnson's influences and with a textured backdrop that allows him the freedom of a Dave Matthews-like troubadour.

*Lemonade* hits its stride in the places where the guests show up. Tristan Prettyman lends her smoky vocals to "Beautiful," and Ben Harper joins G on "Let the Music Play." Jack Johnson even makes an appearance (big surprise) on "Rainbow," a harmonica-fueled ditty about parting friends.

Despite those complimentary appearances, though, guests like Blackalicious and Lateef outclass G on the misnomer that is "Banger," which doesn't snap necks so much as cause minor whiplash. Chief Xcel's drum programming highlights G's pedestrian emceeing, and while Gift of Gab and Lateef weave cursive flows, G struggles to keep up. In all honesty, G Love really should leave rapping to the pros, but after listening to *Lemonade*, it's hard to hate G Love's half-sung, half-rapped melodies.

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# Bears kick off against arch-rival Huskies



With several important holes to fill and a psychological disadvantage, the Bears may no longer have what it takes to beat Saskatchewan.

FILE PHOTO: DANIEL HAYDUK

ANDREW RENFREE  
Sports Staff

For the first time since 2003, the Bears football club could very well lose their opening game of the regular season. On Saturday, Alberta takes on their prairie rivals from Saskatchewan in the opening game of the CIS football season. This rivalry may even trump the battle of Alberta that's so often the focus of media buzz when teams from Edmonton and Calgary come head-to-head.

It only takes revisiting the past two Hardy Cups, Canada West's Championship game, to get a sense of the history between these prairie rivals. In 2004, the Bears lost a close battle by a final score of 21-20 and were forced to lumber back home empty-handed after a promising regular season. 2005 ended up being a movie that the Bears had seen the year before, losing again at the paws of the Huskies 30-17. In fact, counting two last year, the Bears' last three losses have come at the hands of the Huskies.

It's been a long winter of hibernation for the Bears in the off-season;

a time to lick their wounds from the previous two seasons and regroup for 2006. But their first challenge out of the gate ought to wake them abruptly from their summer slumber, as they, once again, face their rivals from the land of *Corner Gas* and Tommy Douglas. Both teams should be fired up for a highly competitive game, as is usually the case, but most signs point to an Alberta loss this weekend.

The first obstacle for the Green and Gold is the "Saskatchewan Curse." This isn't documented in any medical journals or even football playbooks, but it has started to develop over the last couple of seasons with the difficulty Alberta has had beating Saskatchewan on the gridiron.

Each year, a team starts with a fresh slate, but when playoffs come around those thoughts of previous losses creep into the helmets and players begin to doubt whether they can win over this team. Because of the Bears' inability to overcome Saskatchewan in the last two Hardy Cups and the regular season last year, the curse is bound to be a factor on Saturday.

**With young and, in many cases, unproven players filling those spots, it's tough to predict which club has the edge in physical ability on the field, but it's also tough not to wonder if maybe the current incarnation of this Alberta team has passed its window of opportunity.**

Despite beating Alberta to claim top team in the west these last two years, Saskatchewan went on to be defeated each year in the Vanier Cup game by an eastern opponent. It was Laval in '04 with in a low-scoring 7-1 loss, then a 24-23 loss to Laurier the following year. Saskatchewan has come so close to being the top team

in Canadian university football that they're likely hungrier than the Bears. The Huskies will have their eyes set on a Vanier Cup from the opening kickoff of the season.

Not that the Bears won't be focused on a championship, but typically teams that come second place for a while just have that mental toughness that's required to win a championship. Look at the Trinity Western Spartans in men's volleyball last year. Trinity lost to Alberta in the gold medal game in '05. However, they showed a steely reserve in the gold medal game in '06 and shocked Alberta in straight sets. The hungrier team is the better team, all else being equal, so Saskatchewan has an edge in that department.

The one aspect of Saturday's game that's tough to predict, though, is how the teams will match-up after losing key players. Both the Huskies and Bears are left with large holes in their lineup at skill positions after last season. There will be two new quarterbacks, as Saskatchewan's Steve Bilan and Alberta's Darryl Salmon, who ranked fifth and eighth respec-

tively in the league last year, both graduated.

In addition, the Huskies are now without David Stevens, who was ranked second in league rushing and the Bears are minus Jarred Winkel—who is with the Eskos—and David Bissett, who combined to put the Bears third in the conference in regular season rushing yards.

With young and, in many cases, unproven players filling those spots, it's tough to predict which club has the edge in physical ability on the field, but it's also tough not to wonder if maybe the current incarnation of this Alberta team has passed its window of opportunity.

Saskatchewan's close-but-no-cigar seasons of the past two years and their defeat of the Bears to advance through the playoffs gives them a huge mental edge. And, with the game going Saturday at 1pm in Saskatoon, it's difficult to see the Bears doing anything but falling to their biggest rivals. Alberta could very well shock everyone, but more than likely they'll lose again. I just don't see anything else happening.





JACKSON HINTON

**TELL ME MORE** Dave Taylor, provincial Liberal Advanced Education Critic, was surprised to learn of the largely unpublicized online postsecondary review, which the federal government classifies as part of a public consultation.

## Federal gov't keeps quiet on public postsecondary review

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

Despite Stephen Harper's criticism of the Liberal reign and their propensity for secrecy, his government is now facing its own criticism for their lack of publicity on a so-called public campaign. Last week, members of Alberta's postsecondary sector were surprised to learn they hadn't been informed of a Canada-wide online consultation to evaluate the scope of the federal government's role in postsecondary education.

After members of the U of A Students' Union read about it for the first time on the weblog of *Maclean's* magazine political columnist Paul Wells, they sent out a public service announcement on 17 August, encouraging Albertans to participate in the review.

Wells, who was informed of the review by an undisclosed source working in the university sector, questioned the structure of the review and the effectiveness of an unpublicized consultation.

"It's insane to have a secret public consultation. It's holding the people who take higher education closest to heart in contempt and it flies in the face of Stephen Harper's years of criticism of Liberal secrecy," Wells said.

SU President Samantha Power echoed these statements, and questioned the role of the Council of the Federation, which is supposed to increase communication between Canada's premiers.

"It's also extremely odd, because the Council of the Federation was sort of created for this purpose: to evaluate where postsecondary sat in the federal government's priorities," Power said.

Postsecondary education is under provincial jurisdiction, however, at the federal level, it currently falls primarily under the responsibility of the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development (HRSDC) Diane Finley.

Wells explained that the current online consultation sits under the federal government's broader discussion of how to rectify the fiscal imbalance between Ottawa and the rest of the provinces.

"But, in a budget where [the fed-

eral government] announced their consultation on fiscal imbalance they didn't announce the consultation on postsecondary education," Wells noted. "I'm curious how fast word would have gotten out, down to the grassroots and down to the universities' associations and provincial governments, if I hadn't posted it on my blog."

However, Rahim Jaffer, Conservative MP for Edmonton-Strathcona, said that the review, which was initiated by the department of the HRSDC minister, was intended to ensure consultation reached all audiences.

**"God, it's pretty hard to have a consultation if you don't tell anybody that you're consulting them."**

**DAVE TAYLOR,  
LIBERAL ADVANCED  
EDUCATION CRITIC**

"The thinking was that they were wanting to sort of focus in on having a wide ranging process of asking average Canadians for the overall objectives of education," Jaffer said. "Our government believes it's not a good attitude to have a one size fits all policy, but to really hear from all Canadians as to how we can continue to improve the quality of education. And that was the thrust of the consultation process."

But, it appears as though student representatives weren't the only ones uninformed of the consultation, which began on August 15 and will run until 8 September.

"I'm sure that people in my department probably are intimately involved with it, but I hadn't been made aware of it yet," Alberta Minister of Advanced Education Denis Herard said on 28 August.

However, Herard remained optimistic that the review signifies an increased interest by the federal government in reaching an agreement with the provinces on funding responsibilities.

"I'm glad to hear that they are

starting to communicate—even if it's in this particular way—to gain some insight in postsecondary, because it obviously means that somebody got their attention."

However, the Advanced Education Critic for the Alberta Liberals, Dave Taylor, was less convinced the consultation indicated productive steps by the federal government.

"God, it's pretty hard to have a consultation if you don't tell anybody that you're consulting them," Taylor said.

"If the Minister hasn't heard about it, and the Official Opposition Critic hasn't heard about it at the provincial level when this is supposed to be our jobs, I would say that there's a damn good possibility that something in the neighborhood of 97–99 per cent of all the students in postsecondary institutions across this province haven't heard of it."

Nor had the U of A Administration been notified, though they had found out about the review after it had been posted on the federal website through an online search.

"We have people that scan everything that comes out of Ottawa just in case we've missed something," Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrhein explained.

"It's not the best way because doing things—this time of summer is always problematic because lots of people are gone. [But] we're not particularly worried about it, because I don't think it's going to be the only opportunity [for consultation]," Amrhein added.

And, in respond to criticism stating that little to no effort had been put into informing Canadians of the review, Jaffer assured that the online consultation was indeed only an initially step towards defining a comprehensive federal policy on postsecondary education.

"The more specific consultation, as it pertains to postsecondary, will be done as we plan our next budget, and I believe the Minister is planning to really interact with student leaders as well as the administration of various postsecondary institutions," Jaffer assured.

All Canadians are eligible to participate in the online consultation at [www3.hrsdc.gc.ca](http://www3.hrsdc.gc.ca).

ALSO SEE EDITORIAL, PAGE 9

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# Soccer Pandas sweep weekend tournament

PAUL OWEN  
Sports Editor

For the last two seasons, the Pandas soccer team has had one of the conference's top scorers, so it was no surprise that they lit up their opponents in a preseason tournament in Lethbridge this past weekend. Amy Ciezki, who finished second in Canada West goal scoring last season, potted four goals in the four exhibition games and the Pandas outscored their opponents 12-1, winning all four games.

For head coach Liz Jepsen, the outcome validated her team's entrance in a tournament that she worried would wear them down before the start of the new season, as most of the Pandas spent the summer playing on club teams.

"They have had a grueling club season this summer, and most of them have club provincials Labour Day weekend and then our first games the weekend after, so I was torn on whether or not to play in this tournament," Jepsen said. "We went down to Lethbridge with a couple of things to sort out: we wanted to give those people that were coming into the program a chance to see what they could do against other CIS athletes, and we wanted to give our starters a chance to build and see what we needed to work on."

The offensive-minded Pandas played to their forte by pushing the tempo and attacking the net.

"I can see that we're still on the upward curve from where we started last year. It's really nice to see the athletes have retained a lot of what we focused on. We still have three fantastic strikers—all of our front-runners scored," said Jepsen.

The Pandas won in dominating fashion, dispatching Lethbridge and Saskatchewan by 4-0 scores before knocking off Regina 3-1 and Calgary 1-0. While Jepsen was pleased with the victories, she also felt it important



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

**SHOWING THEM HOW TO SCORE** A potent offense and a bunch of fast runners helped the Pandas take on all comers at a pre-season tourney in Lethbridge.

to recognize the quality of teams they played. Last season, only Calgary made the playoffs, and the other three were three of the bottom four teams in the league. Regina scored only two goals all season.

"When you look at us against Saskatchewan and Lethbridge last season, it certainly wasn't 4-0, so we'll take our success as they come, and it certainly isn't reflective of what will happen down the road," she said. "It's a big confidence boost, but we

also have to remember that, just like us, they weren't necessarily playing their best lineups, either."

Alberta spent the first half of each game using their starters, hoping to get them accustomed to playing together again, and used the second halves to give their other players some time on the field. In addition to proving they still had a potent offence, the Pandas also displayed a defence to match, allowing very few shots on net—Jepsen estimated only two not

counting free kicks and corners—and only one goal.

"Christina Kahlina—she took a year hiatus to focus on her studies—has come back to play out her last year. She's out playing on the left and is a fantastic defender. She's only about 5'4", but tough as nails, doesn't miss a tackle and just goes and goes," Jepsen said. "When you add her to the composure of Natalie Swain in the middle, it makes us tough to beat."

The weekend sweep is a good

starting point for a Pandas team that struggled out of the gate last season, managing only ties in their first three games. Jepsen feels that, this year, her team is prepared for the start of the season 8 September.

"We have seven returning starters, so we still have a really good core, and with all those girls, you can tell that they've spent a year and really grown as players," she said. "I find the team is very composed and settled, and they know what to do."

## Golden Bears reload by flexing inter-provincial muscle

Head coach Don Horwood nabbed six BC recruits who will join two other British Columbians playing for the Bears this season



FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FONG

**BORN IN THE WESTMOST PROVINCE** Gordon is one of eight BC-born Bears.

CHRIS O'LEARY  
Sports Staff

Alberta's rat-free status has its pros and cons. On the pro side, rats are disgusting. On the con side, there's the fact that for this year at least, rats of the gym variety were scarce locally. So, when Golden Bears basketball coach Don Horwood went west this past March into British Columbia, he was happy to find a bumper crop of young athletes to fill out his roster.

BC-based hoopsters Scott Leigh, CG Morrison, Eric Casey, Neb Aleksic, Justin Van Loo and Gary Pelton will all dawn the Green and Gold this season for Horwood, who's showing that his left-coast connections are anything but shallow.

Prior to taking the reigns at Alberta in the 1983/84 season, Horwood spent 14 years coaching in Victoria at Oak Bay High School. As he heads into his 24th season as the Bears' head coach, he said that he's in contact with coaches in the area on a regular basis.

"[My contacts] are all guys I've coached against. There are two or three times every year I talk to them about guys we can look at, and from time to time I'll get a call from one of them saying that they've got a guy who'd

work really well in our program, that sort of thing. There are lots of Victoria coaches I know that push their kids in this direction. We've got two Victoria kids coming here now [Morrison and Casey]. The contacts are good. There's a good pipeline there."

**"This year we lucked out in that UBC and UVic are full and loaded. I think they're good enough to play at those schools, but they really didn't have any openings."**

DON HORWOOD

When recruiting in BC, Horwood said he realizes that the U of A can be low on the pecking order for prospects. This year, however, was different.

"Every year the top BC kids go to the States, the next two or three usually go to UBC or UVic," he said. "This year we lucked out in that UBC and UVic are full and loaded. I think they're good enough to play at those

schools, but they really didn't have any openings. Their coaches, when I went out there to talk to them, they said these are guys you should be looking at."

Alongside Horwood's six recruits, veteran players Scott Gordon and Harvey Bradford also hail from BC. They're joined by Winnipeg natives Tyson Jones and last-minute recruit Jamal Bara to make for a heavy out of province majority for the Bears, a first for the program. Horwood said that he's not worried about the program losing local support, as there are still Edmonton-born players on the team, pointing to fluctuations in the local talent pool as a reason for looking outside of the province for talent.

"We always want the local kids," he said. "We went through this period when I first came here in the early '80s. We had ten, maybe more, really good years of good, solid Edmonton high school and college players. The last couple of years haven't been quite as good. It's just a cycle; a couple of thin years here. It looks like down the road, the Alberta [provincial] teams have been good the last couple of years, so it looks like it'll potentially rebuild itself in the next year or two."



# Sex sells, and that’s a good thing—even in sports



ANDREW  
RENFREE  
  
Sports  
Commentary

Attractive women in sports are the best thing since attractive women in the kitchen.

Okay, so that was totally offensive, but the point is that attractive female athletes—the ones who get more attention for their beauty than their skills, or even their skillz—actually benefit their respective sports more than most people give them credit for.

To highlight this, let’s compare two sports: professional women’s tennis and professional women’s basketball. If I had \$20, and gave a dollar to every person who could tell me who won the WNBA title this year, I’d probably still have enough cash to see a movie. Women’s tennis, on the other hand, has been gaining stature in the sports world partly because its beauties receive so much media attention and fan interest. Maria Kirilenko, Maria Sharapova, Daniela Hantuchova and Anna Kournikova, to name a few, are a big reason why women’s tennis is more popular than both its men’s counterpart and the WNBA combined.

The main benefit of attractive athletes in a sport is that they actually draw people to watch the sport. Many years ago, I thought that tennis sucked—plain and simple. If I wanted to hear two people grunting and whacking balls around, I would have rented a porno. Then, players like Anna Kournikova became popular and I started watching tennis—and it doesn’t take a genius to figure out why: she’s hot! I would never have given that sport any of my time, but since I was drawn in, I’ve realized that tennis isn’t all that bad.

This phenomenon isn’t restricted to the tennis court, either. Another prime example of an attractive athlete helping her sport is Natalie Gulbis, a female golfer. Recently, Gulbis came to Edmonton with three other accomplished male golfers to put on a clinic. The bulk of the press coverage, however, wasn’t devoted to the event but rather to Gulbis and her appealing attributes.

It wasn’t as if she was golfing alongside a group of amateurs either. Tom Watson, who has amassed five British Open victories, two Masters victories and one US open title in his storied career got only a fraction of the press coverage Gulbis did, and I’ll bet you can guess why if you’ve read this far. It’s because Gulbis has ass and Watson has arthritis. Gulbis also overshadowed Paul Azinger and Peter Jacobsen,

who are both damn good golfers in their own right. The thing is, though, that golf is more excruciating to watch than tennis, and Gulbis’ presence generated a lot of interest in the event and the sport of women’s golf overall.

It’s not only female athletes who leverage their sexuality to generate interest in a sport. For example, Sidney Crosby is used in advertisements for companies like Gatorade and Reebok all the time, while Alexander Ovechkin is relegated to endorse jock-itch medication. This is despite the fact that this past season Ovechkin played better than Crosby, won the Calder Trophy for best rookie and plays for a more competitive team. It sounds bizarre doesn’t it? Crosby has become the poster-boy for the NHL not just for the fact that Gretzky told us he was the next big thing, but also because he comes from a marketable background and has a face that would make all the puck bunnies swoon.

Some may argue that focusing on athletes’ appearances detracts from the game and degrades them as people. However, here’s the bottom line: at the end of the day sports are just a form of entertainment and the sex-factor only increases that entertainment. Sports were founded on fair competition and rivalries amongst athletes, but today, sport is a business, and teams want to be as profitable as possible. If six years of business school has taught



**HOT=GOOD** Natalie Gulbis gets more attention for her looks than skills.

me anything, it’s that people don’t like losing money. And that applies just as much to sports franchises as it does to McDonald’s. For an owner of a sports team, or an advertiser for an individual sport like tennis or golf, the goal is to get as many people interested in the sport or athlete as possible. The more people who are interested, the more

revenue you see, and until this trend changes we’ll keep seeing hot athletes as spokespeople for their sports. It’s really a simple equation: sexy athletes equals more fans, which equals more money, which equals longevity of sports. I say, bring on the hotness; hell, if I looked like half of these athletes, I’d want to flaunt it, too.



**GOLDEN GRIN** Christine Bennett took gold in Lithuania. That’s in Europe.

## Rower strikes gold at FISU regatta

PAUL OWEN  
Sports Editor

Canada usually fares poorly in International University Sport Federation (FISU) competitions, winning only 13 medals in the two Universiades of 2005—six of which came in women’s wrestling. But this August, a Canadian rowing pair, including University of Alberta student Christine Bennett, was the exception to the rule as they captured gold in the women’s lightweight doubles at the World University Rowing Championships on 13 August.

Bennett, a 23-year-old nutrition student, teamed with Lindsay Jennerich of Victoria to take the gold medal in Trakai, Lithuania, finished a spot higher than the week previous at the Commonwealth Regatta in Strathclyde, Scotland. Their boat crossed the finish line of the 2000m course in 8:02.8, six seconds ahead of second place.

“It was definitely the biggest thing I’ve ever done,” said Bennett of her win.

“I came from rowing at the Edmonton Rowing Club, which is a bit of a shanty hut. I started out hanging out down there, and I don’t think anyone at that time thought that I would ever do something like this. It’s really a confidence builder to know I can push myself to that level. It’s more of a personal accomplishment since no one knows about rowing”

Bennett started rowing when she was twelve, mainly because her dad and sister were involved. She went through the Edmonton Rowing Club as a teenager doing mostly recreational rowing. When she hit high school, Bennett coxed for the U of A’s rowing club. Being around more serious athletes sparked Bennett’s competitive fire, and she joined the U of A club when she graduated and started becoming more serious about it. When

she switched out of junior, she moved into lightweight rowing, which puts a 59kg maximum on female rowers.

While she still spends the fall and winter training with the University rowing team, Bennett spent the summer training four hours a day in Victoria with the national team before heading to Europe for the two regattas. Her training consisted of cycling, practice sessions at least twice a day and weight training in the middle. It’s a training regiment Bennett hopes to duplicate this coming summer.

“Next summer I’m going back [to the national team]. I definitely want to compete for Canada again. I really pushed myself hard, and I know if I can keep pushing myself and I can keep seeing gains,” she said. “It’s really stiff competition in Canada. I’d love to compete for Canada on the senior-A team in the Olympics or the World Championships—that’s definitely a goal of mine.”

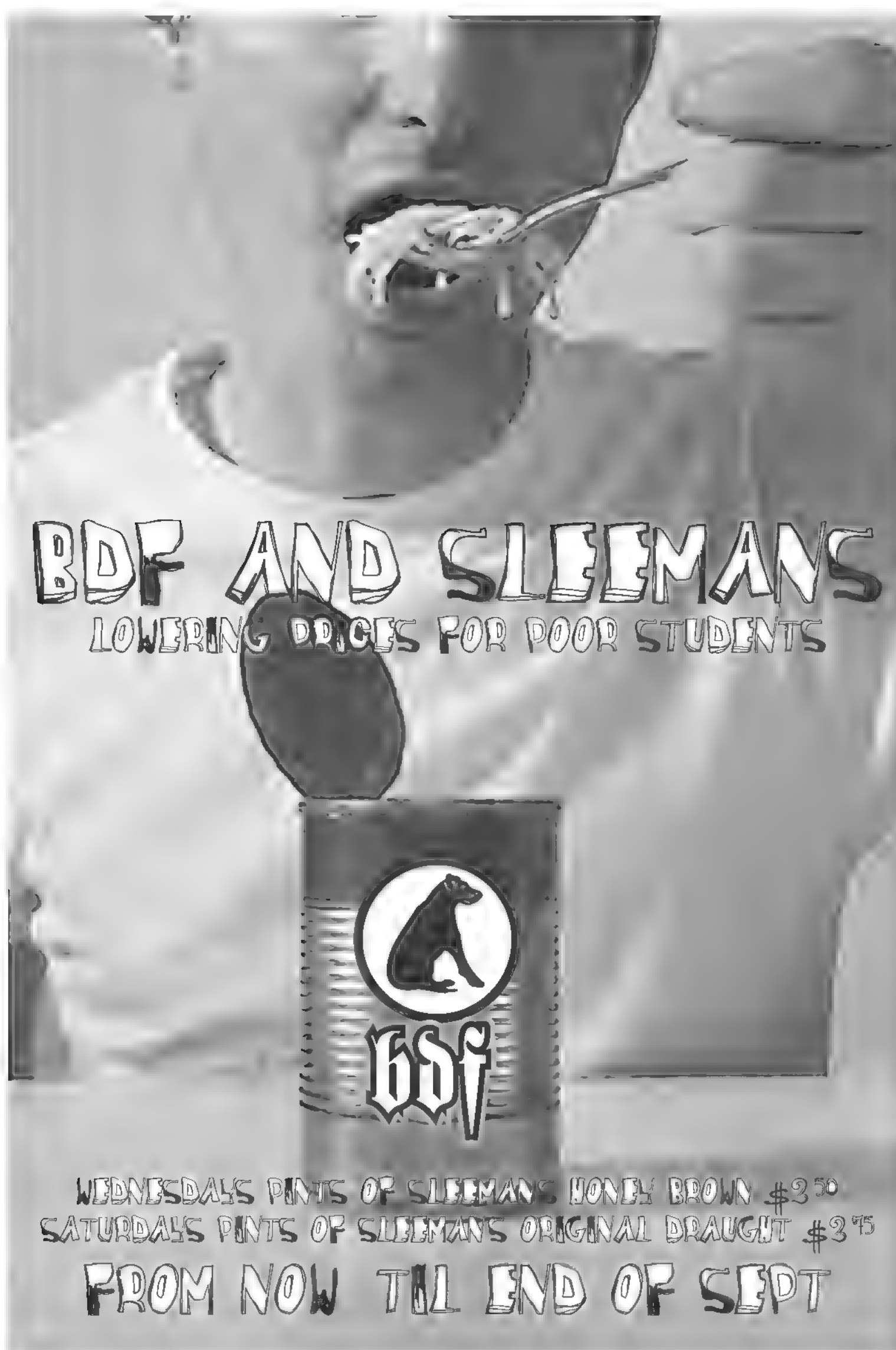
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# Gateway ready for football and sharing favourites from the field



GATEWAY  
STAFF

Sports  
Commentary

When the Golden Bears take the field this weekend in Saskatoon, it will mark the beginning of the CIS season. With the CFL past the halfway point and the NFL and NCAA seasons set to kick off by the end of September, those of us here at the *Gateway* can't help but cast our minds back to those fond memories upon which we built our football fandom. Some of us love CIS, others the CFL and one can't get past his high-school glory days.

**Andrew Renfree**

For me, there are many memorable football moments from which to choose a favourite. There was high school football, where we had a slave-driver for a coach who made us run until we questioned why exactly we had signed up to play in the first place. Then, there have been many occasions where I froze my ass off covering Bears football for the *Gateway*, while more senior reporters got to enjoy the warmth of the press box. Also, I'll never forget last fall when Ross Prusakowski and I tried out for the Bears to get the inside scoop on the team before the season began. The memory of jumping on Ross' back and falling to the unforgiving carpet at Foote field will forever be seared in my memory.

As a fan though, my favourite football moment was watching the 2002 Grey Cup in Edmonton. It was the first Grey Cup I watched in a frosty stadium, as opposed to a warm couch in someone's basement. Despite the chilly temperatures, the live experience of Canada's most prestigious football game was something I'll never forget. Commonwealth Stadium was buzzing that day as the Eskimos took on their all-too-common foe, the Alouettes. Fans of the Green and Gold went home disappointed as Montreal won 25-16, but it was great to hear 50 000 fans jeering Als quarterback Anthony Calvillo each time he had the football. Our efforts didn't bring the Cup home, but it was a great first live Grey Cup.

**Ross Prusakowski**

Though I bleed Calgary Stampeder red and white and grew up during the Pitts and Flutie era, the Stamps actually have nothing to do with my favourite football memory. Instead, the combination of a freak October snowstorm, one sparse stadium and a very lopsided football game are what makes my most beloved pigskin moment.

Sure, that blend of events might seem like a reason to stay home, but they also allowed some of the lighter side of sports to shine through. Both the Alberta Golden Bears and the Regina Rams not only played the game, they traded balls for shovels and helped cleaned Foote Field off after a snowstorm. Something that likely made Rams backup quarterback Mark Anderson the only person who cleared the same spot he was sacked on.

That was only the on-field humor:



FILEPHOTO: DANIEL HAYDUK

**NOT OUR FAVOURITE** This catch by Matt Burrows didn't quite make the cut.

Regina probably left wishing that the 41-7 final score was some kind of joke as well. Off the field, the fact that the handful of media and stadium personnel outnumbered spectators, and the 50/50 draw was a paltry \$20 provided more amusement than the actual game could muster.

This isn't a game that's likely to be found on anyone's "best of the Bears" list in the near future, but it's a game that will always hold a special place in my heart, for the sheer minor league atmosphere, and not the score.

**Mike Kendrick**

The year after the Stamps won their last Grey Cup in the 2001 season, the team essentially fell apart. Considering the loss of head coach Wally Buono and practically the entire defensive line, this sort of thing really isn't surprising to a Calgary fan.

Since Tom Higgins skipped town up here and drove 297 km south, though, things have been looking up in Cowtown. The Stampederers are currently sitting at second in the West, and are looking to deliver a one-two crushing blow to the Eskies' beleaguered season in back-to-back games next week. Macciocia has already been thrown to the wolves and subjected to the relentless and unforgiving appetites of bloodthirsty Eskimos fans who don't know the meaning of the phrase "early off-season."

A streak of having made the playoffs for 34 consecutive years hangs in jeopardy for Edmonton, while Calgary breathes easy, coming off two hard-fought victories over the toughest team in the East. As a bitter, Eskimos-hating Stamps fan, my favorite football memory is currently in the making. Happy Thanksgiving, Edmonton. We'll bring you back something nice from Winnipeg.

**Scott Lilwall**

My favourite football memory harks back to the heady days of high school football, when we would spend our Tuesdays packed in a big yellow school bus with our sweaty gear, travelling across the bare Saskatchewan plains to the next tiny town. One of those tiny towns was Rosetown, and they had a player named Tiny.

Tiny was six feet tall, and must

have weighed over 400 pounds. His jersey stopped at his navel, leaving 40 pounds of sweaty, white flesh hanging free, scaring small children. Tiny played defensive nose, effectively plugging up the running lanes without having to actually move from his position.

I distinctively remember the fourth quarter of our playoff game against Rosetown, when my team's centre, Peter, had the misfortune of falling underneath Tiny. While he was laying down, Tiny was still plugging the hole enough to foil the play. So it came to be that I was elbow-deep in manflab, shoving with all my might to clear the way for the running back to slip through, all the while, Peter screeched from below the immovable object. "Stop! Please! You're killing me!"

I don't know where Tiny ended up, whether he went on to continue his career of crushing the bones of unfortunate centres, or simply moved to the east coast to become a wave break for a marina. Wherever you are, little guy, thanks for the memories.

**Paul Owen**

The most memorable football moment in my mind didn't come from a game-winning TD pass or fluke play. Instead, the play most ingrained in my memory is a simple quarterback sack.

On 18 November, 1985, in front of a national TV audience on *Monday Night Football*, the Giants played the Redskins. Joe Theismann, the Redskins QB, ran a flea-flicker trick play that didn't fool anyone, especially not Giants LB Lawrence Taylor. Taylor sacked Theismann hard, driving him into the ground and breaking his leg. Theismann's career would be over.

It's not because I dislike Theismann, or even because I enjoy his commentating work on ESPN—I don't—that I remember this moment. It's simply because watching the video reminds me that Lawrence Taylor is probably the best pressure defender in history. When he wasn't suspended for drugs, Taylor was an absolute force on the field that opposing offences couldn't ignore. You didn't forget about LT being on the field, but if you did, the sickening snapping sound of Theismann's leg should be enough to remind you of the consequences.



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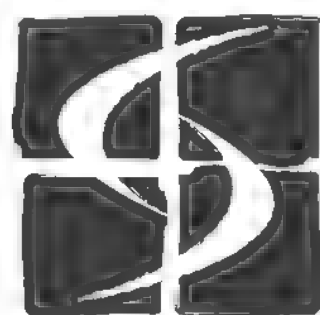
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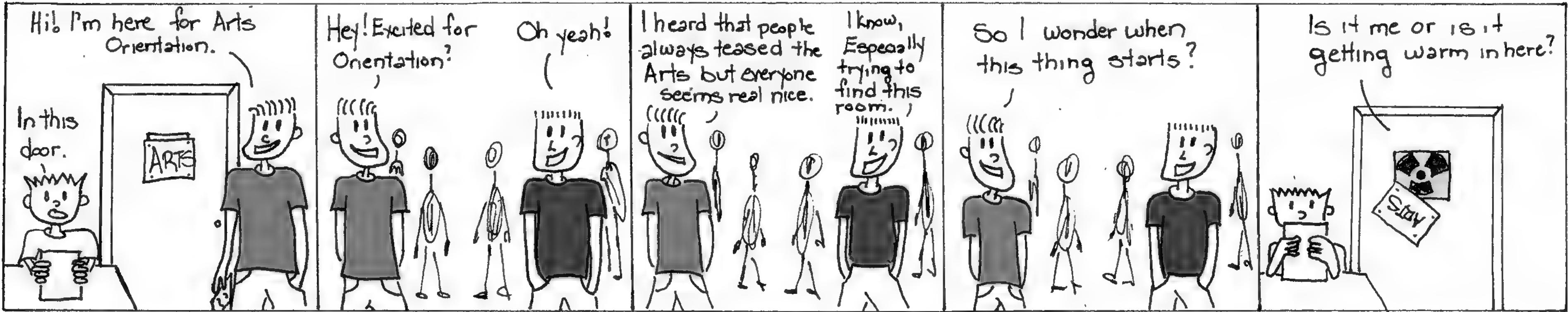
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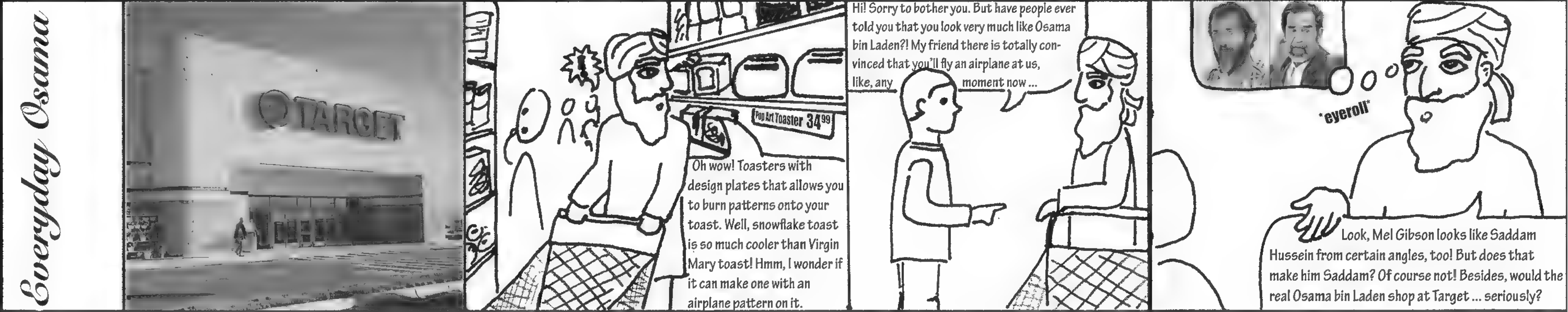
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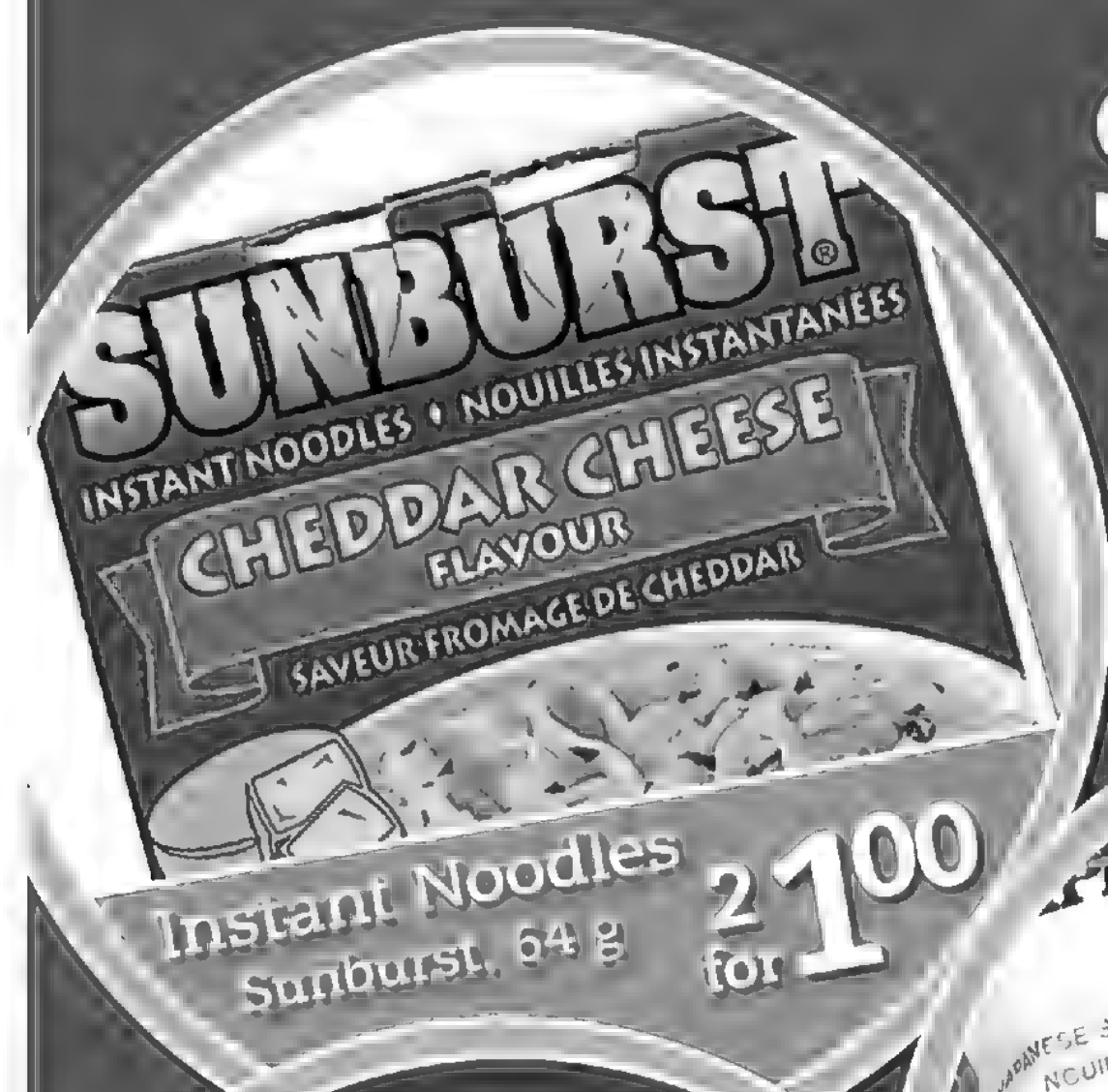
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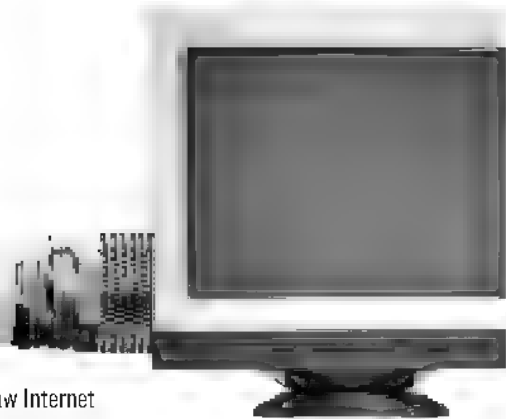
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# New obesity vaccine controversial

KIM MISUTKA  
News Staff

University of Alberta medical researchers are unconvinced that a newly announced vaccine will suppress the rise of obesity, explaining that it has the potential to dangerously interfere with the natural reactions of the body.

Earlier this month, Californian researchers announced that they had designed a vaccine to combat obesity and weight gain. According to a study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the vaccine inhibited the activity of ghrelin, a recently discovered hormone that triggers hunger when injected into laboratory rats. Results showed that the vaccinated rats didn't gain as much weight and had less body fat than the controlled rodents that were fed the same amount. This is the first published data that indicates preventing ghrelin from the central nervous system decreases weight gain.

Ghrelin is secreted predominately by the stomach, which sends a signal to the brain, stimulating appetite, explained Dr William Colmers. A Professor of Pharmacology at the U of A whose research originally linked the hormone to the desire to overeat. "Giving it to an animal, either in the periphery or in the brain, makes animals eat. When you're hungry, the levels of ghrelin go up and they drop right after you have eaten," Colmers said.

While some researchers find the idea of an anti-obesity vaccine interesting, Colmers is more cautious.

"The idea of making a vaccine for something your body naturally makes is new and is fraught with some potential dangers," Colmers said. "Essentially what you're training your



JENNY FROGNER

**A BIG FAT PROBLEM** U of A's Dr Baracos questions safety of obesity vaccine.

immune system to do is to react to something that your self produces."

Colmers went on to say that this could cause problems in a person's immune system.

"[There are] a lot of nasty disorders that happen when you become allergic to yourself and your immune system starts attacking components of your body that are important," he said. The idea of a vaccine is a very different concept in fighting weight gain, explained U of A professor of Oncology, Dr Vickie Baracos. Unlike a drug, which requires the consistent intake of a set dosage to be effective, results with a vaccine would be persistent.

"When you're vaccinated against something you're constantly immune to that compound; it's inhibited all the time," Baracos said.

Baracos is also curious to find out what would happen if a vaccinated person developed an illness after taking the vaccine and needed to put

on some additional weight.

"At different times of your life you might want to have more appetite or less appetite," she explained. "People with cancer, as their cancer progresses, they may eat initially 10 per cent less than what they require ... what would happen if, incidentally, one of those people had been vaccinated against appetite at an earlier time?"

Lots of testing still needs to be done with the vaccine, Baracos continued, and as research on obesity continues, questions remain unanswered.

"How many things have you heard of that are claimed to help control weight and appetite? There are a lot of things: there's the topic of scientific research; there's publicity in the newspaper. In spite of a great deal of research and activity, the tidal wave of obesity just keeps getting bigger and bigger ... we really don't have a substantial way to treat people for obesity at this time," Baracos said.

# Boycott of Maclean's rankings overdue: SU

MACLEAN'S • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Dr Indra Samarasekera, U of A President explained that the three Alberta presidents visited *Maclean's* earlier in the year to discuss the ranking, which they felt "were inaccurate and were penalizing Alberta," particularly with regards to admissions averages and the way they treated scholarships. They received no response.

"The difficulty with *Maclean's* is that they ask us to supply them some of the data. We have to use our resources and then they use the data inappropriately in order to sell magazines," Samarasekera said. "Why should public universities be supporting a commercial enterprise?"

Harrison went on to say that the rankings create artificial differences between institutions, magnifying minor differences.

"Telling someone you came in second is very different than telling them that you were one-hundredth of a second behind the person who came first," Harrison said.

Since the eleven universities bailed out on the *Maclean's* survey, a twelfth institution, the University of Carlton, has dropped out of the survey. *Maclean's* has responded by announcing that they will now publish the score that determines each university's rank and launch a new website on 2 November, when the university issue comes out, allowing users to create their own ranking by means of a customized evaluation of the data.

Samantha Power, Students' Union President at the U of A, was supportive of the Administration, noting

that there are better ways to compare postsecondary institutions than the *Maclean's* ranking, which has held national attention for 15 years.

"I think it's time someone took a stance like this," Power said. "In a lot of other countries, it's the government that sets up a non-profit organization to evaluate universities," she said, pointing to Britain, and adding that, in Germany, it's a coalition of media organizations that evaluates universities.

*Maclean's* will include the twelve universities who have voiced their opposition in their university issue, using public data create the rankings. And though Harrison said the publication is welcome to use the information, he doesn't think it will have much of an impact.

"I've yet to meet a student at the U of C, or indeed a parent of a student at the U of C, who pays much attention to the *Maclean's* rankings. In other words, I do not believe that *Maclean's* provides significant input into most students' decision on where to go to university," Harrison said.

"And I think that's particularly true in Alberta," he added.

Still, Keller maintained that the survey is simply meant to give the public information about universities, not to condemn or reward individual institutions.

"I strongly urge you not to have the idea that this is somehow a magazine that is antithetical to Alberta," Keller said. "*Maclean's* is hardly setting itself up to figure out how to screw Alberta—the editor-in-chief is from Edmonton."



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# Technology able to repair damaged teeth

Ultrasound technique stimulates tissue growth; may one day be used to stimulate bone tissue growth

TIM PEPPIN  
News Staff

Don't throw away your toothbrush—this is the message of University of Alberta researchers who have developed a new technique that repairs dental damage and, in the future, may be used in a variety of medical procedures.

Dr Ying Tsui, a researcher with the Faculty of Engineering, along with Dr Tarek El-Bialy from the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and Dr Jie Chen from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering have successfully used low-intensity pulsed ultrasound (LIPUS) to stimulate the growth of tissues and bones in animals, including humans. The team's research, which has been reported as a way to regrow teeth, is actually a method to stimulate the growth of the roots of teeth damaged by injury or disease.

"Currently the device can be used to treat resorption of roots but cannot stimulate the growth of an entirely new human tooth if the tooth was completely lost," Tsui explained.

The device is referred to as an ultrasound transducer—an object that emits high-frequency sound waves. It has its own power source, a "smart" ultrasound emitter that monitors the power of the sound waves for best effects, and also wirelessly broadcasts feedback to the patient or dentist.

But despite the complexity of the device, the unit is now small enough to comfortably mount on orthodon-

tic braces inside the mouth thanks to a successful interdisciplinary collaboration between the researchers. El-Bialy had been researching the effects and potential of LIPUS for years. Previously, patients had to hold an ultrasound unit to the desired area for 20 minutes a day—a requirement that was inconvenient for the patient, and frustrated El-Bialy. With the nanotechnology and engineering expertise of Tsui and Chen, however, the ultrasound transmitter was shrunk to a size where it could be taken out of the hands of the patient, quite literally, and placed in the mouth.

**"Currently the device can be used to treat resorption of roots but cannot stimulate the growth of an entirely new human tooth if the tooth was completely lost."**

**DR YING TSUI,  
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING**

Currently, LIPUS has been used to treat Hemifacial Microsomia—a condition in which the lower half of one side of the face is underdeveloped, often requiring expensive surgery to correct—and to treat the resorption of teeth roots. The roots of teeth can



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: PHIL HEAD

**SAY CHEESE** Research aimed at stimulating the roots of damaged teeth to grow again is providing a lot to smile about.

be resorbed for many reasons: disease, hormonal changes, an attack by the body's own immune system, and even the simple wearing of orthodontic braces can all trigger it. LIPUS, however, can reverse the damage, allowing those with corrective braces to wear them longer, and those with degenerative disorders to maintain the

health of their teeth.

While their current research is limited to repairing and restoring damaged dental bone, Tsui is hopeful that LIPUS' applications may broaden, and be used in other fields and medical procedures.

"Ultrasound could be used to stimulate the growth of bones and tissues

in other parts of the body. Teeth are not unique. Our current experiments indicate LIPUS can be even used to stimulate stem cells to grow and differentiate into bone tissues. In the future, perhaps new teeth can be engineered from stem cells, but for this idea to materialize it will require a lot of research," Tsui said.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Compiled by Bill Luthi & Isha Thompson

TWO NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Marc de La Bruyère and Gordon Clanachan have been appointed to the University of Alberta Board of Governors, each for a three-year term beginning 23 August. These appointments were made to replace Brian Heidecker, who took over as Chair in July, and Gail Surkan, who resigned. Advanced Education Minister Denis Herard is responsible for the appointments.

The Board of Governors is comprised of a Chairman appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, the Chancellor, the U of A President and seventeen other members, including two Students' Union representatives elected by the student body. It is responsible for financial and staff decisions, and making administrative policy. Financial decisions range from

tuition and course fees to building maintenance, property acquisition and new building construction.

Currently, Marc de La Bruyère is the chair of the Alberta Business Family Institute and serves on several other boards including Phillips Exeter Canadian Scholarship Fund, the Conseil Consultatif of the Faculté Saint Jean and the Business Advisory Council, University of Alberta School of Business. Gordon Clanachan was previously the president and CEO of RailLink Ltd. Currently, he owns Clanachan Enterprises and is a co-owner of Galloway Removals Ltd. He also serves as a director for Alberta Blue Cross and Bridgewater Bank, as an XS Cargo Income fund trustee and chair of the Edmonton Regional Airports Authority Audit Committee.

ROBOTS MIMIC INSECTS' INTERACTION

A University of Alberta professor hopes to prove to the public that the interactions of social insects like ants and bees are an ideal blueprint for creating efficient robots.

Dr Hong Zhang, a professor in the Department of Computing Science and NSERC/iCORE Industrial Research Chair, was awarded a 2006 NSERC Discovery grant for his work on collective robots. Zhang and his group of graduate students will be given \$39 000 per year for five years to work on Multi Robot Systems (MRS). The MRS is a group of robots that are each smaller than a paint can; yet Zhang is designing his robots to interact similarly to a group of friends who go out to the movies—the robots are meant to move as independent units but are programmed to make decisions and perform tasks with the consensus of the entire group.

But even though Zhang compares the MRS to common interactions among humans, he stresses that he and his students are using social insects as their model. Insects' ability to communicate amongst one another and commit to a specific task is an attractive feature for Zhang's robots, and by using algorithms to map the behavior of insects, Zhang's team will be able to



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: WEIYANG LIU

ATTACK! Hong Zhang is designing social robots to interact with one another.

recreate it with the MRS.

According to Zhang, the integral component is that tasks are completed simultaneously and within the group: no single robot is in control.

The potential that Zhang's research

may have on the future endeavors of robots is remarkable. He points out that robots with collective decision-making and construction skills can also contribute to saving lives in case of terrorist attacks or natural disasters.

COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Scott Lilwall

During the summer months, Students' Council met every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12 September. However, here is a wrap-up of some of the issues that went before Council this summer.

24/7SUB

Vice-President (Academic) Amanda Henry released a report on 27 June, reviewing last year's pilot project to turn SUB in to a 24/7 study space. The report examined the costs, security concerns, and other issues related to the project, which kept the lower two floors of SUB open to students and staff 24 hours a day, from January to the end of April. In the report, Henry argued that the costs of keeping open the area were well worth the expense, and that a significant number of students took advantage of the study area, especially during midterms and finals. Henry concluded that the project was a success, and that the SU should recommend that the program continue in to the 2006/07 year.

INTERNSHIPS

On 11 July, Council put forth a motion to develop a policy stating that the Students' Union would negotiate with faculties and departments to ensure that any co-operative or internship program would be accessible to all students studying in the faculty. The policy also stated that the SU would lobby the U of A Administration to monitor the co-ops within the faculties, to make sure that the opportunities were open to all eligible students. This came after criticism that some students, especially international students, weren't able to take part in important co-op programs in certain facilities. The motion was put to a vote and passed.

U-PASS

On 8 August, Council approved a new policy on student transportation, passing a motion on the Affordable Universal Transit Pass. The policy stated that the SU would continue to negotiate with the Administration and with the City's Transportation Department to provide an affordable U-Pass to students studying at the U of A. The motion was put on the table after the expiry of the SU's old U-Pass policy, which was decided on by referendum the year before. Unlike the old policy, the new statement doesn't set any specific price cap on the potential pass, which councillors hope will make negotiations with the City of Edmonton and the U of A easier.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Edmon Rotea

HE WOULD HAVE GOT IT, EVENTUALLY

On 15 August at 1:30am, Campus Security received calls that a male was "going crazy"—yelling obscenities and violently shaking bike racks near the LRT station.

When Campus Security arrived on the scene, the troublemaker was spotted attempting to steal a bike which he had accessed by sheer luck, guessing at the combination of its cable lock. A few minutes later, he attempted to get into the cars in one of the parking lots on campus. Campus Security promptly arrested the male for trespassing and escorted him off campus, ending his very busy day.

SAVED BY THE BELL

At around lunch time on 15 August, a male was observed riding a red bike around campus. Thirty minutes later, the same man was spotted riding a black bike. He was stopped for not having a bell on his "new" bike and was found to be trespassing on campus.

The subject was placed under arrest and ticketed for trespassing. Wire cutters and other tools were found in his possession and the man was escorted

off campus.

Later that day, Campus Security received a complaint that a bike had been stolen from a bike rack on campus. The bike the man was riding earlier apparently belonged to the complainant and Edmonton Police Service is preparing charges to file against the thief.

ONE-SHOED WONDER

During a 9pm patrol on 19 August, Campus Security personnel heard the sound of breaking glass coming from the Dentistry and Pharmacy building. Upon further investigation, an intoxicated male sporting one shoe was found inside the building. He had emptied the contents of a fire extinguisher in the hallway and was in the process of kicking out a window when Campus 5-0 arrived.

The male was arrested and released into the custody of the EPS. While inside the police van, the male kicked the doors of the vehicle so hard that authorities needed to use a crowbar in order to get him out. EPS is preparing further charges against the man. The property damage is unknown at this time and the male had no University affiliation.

HEADSTRONG HELLRAISER

On 22 August at 2am, while on a patrol in the area around Newton Place, Campus Security received a report of a male who had smashed his head through a window of a nearby business.

When Campus Security arrived, the

hardly hoodlum was bleeding and threatening nearby bystanders with a pair of scissors. Campus Security ensured the safety of the bystanders and requested the assistance of the EPS and called an ambulance for the man. EPS quickly responded, and the male was arrested and taken to the hospital for treatment for his injuries.

CAMERA IN A MOTHERFUCKIN' TOILET

City police are still looking for person(s) responsible for placing a hidden camera found in the ceiling directly above a women's bathroom stall in the South lobby of NAIT's main campus. The incident occurred several time since 4 July, with the latest incident occurring on 24 August.

A video recovered from the first incident consists of footage of women using the bathroom stall.

No suspects have been found, but investigators haven't ruled out any possibilities. The video recording equipment is currently under examination by EPS forensics authorities.

Campus Security has yet to receive any reports of a similar incident occurring at the U of A. For the sake of the safety and security of everyone who lives, works, or studies on campus, increased awareness is recommended when using public washroom or locker facilities. Anyone who finds anything suspicious in any campus washroom should contact Campus Security at 492-5050.

STREETERS

The temperature's dropping and fall classes are going to begin soon.

What did you do this summer?



Nathan Kan  
Combined Japanese/  
Chinese II

I worked for two months at a garden centre and then for this month I quit so I could study for some language courses in the fall because that's going to be my major. I'm going to do a combined Chinese/Japanese. So it went by a lot faster than I thought but I'm enjoying the four month summers.



Jose Rodriguez  
Grad Student

I just worked and went to a friend's wedding. And that's about it.



Monica Ma  
Business II

I went to the United States to have a holiday and travel. I went to San Francisco, New York, Boston, places like that. My favorite was San Francisco because it's quiet and peaceful, not dirty like New York.



Deniz Dogan  
Science IV

I got married in Turkey, in Istanbul. I got back to Canada about two weeks ago.



Michelle Mudryk  
Education III

I worked a lot at Starbucks and Indigo, but it was pretty good, especially hanging out at [my friend's house] until two in the morning and then having to get up to go to work at 8am.



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MICHAEL MLYNARZ

**AN OPEN BOOK** Who would have thought that other people could read what you post on the Internet? Universities are increasingly keeping an eye on what their students place on social networking sites, and have even disciplined for posts.

# Facebook use cautioned

More and more, students are finding that online posts cause real world trouble

CAROLYNNE BURKHOLDER  
*The Ubyessey (UBC)*

VANCOUVER (CUP)—With over 7.5 million users, the vast majority of them postsecondary students, Facebook is one of the largest social networking sites on the Internet. But some point out that an open system like Facebook, which can be accessed by professors, administrators or potential employers, may present unexpected pitfalls for some students.

"Anyone with a university e-mail account can get a Facebook account," said Johanna Waggott, a residence-life manager at the University of British Columbia. "I don't think students think about that when they are putting stuff up on their profiles."

She advised that students not put anything on Facebook that they wouldn't shout out in a crowd, and pointed out that she has been invited to banned parties in her own residence through Facebook.

Prior to this warning, Teri Yoo, a second-year science student at UBC, said she hadn't thought about university officials or potential employers seeing her Facebook profile.

"I'm kind of uncomfortable that other people can read all that information about me," she said.

However, Sean Hepple, a recent UBC graduate, said it doesn't matter whether his professors or employers look him up on Facebook. He said he hasn't put anything on his profile that he would be ashamed for them to see.

Although no UBC students have been severely penalized because of anything posted on Facebook, action has been taken against some students attending universities in the United States.

Last year, Saul Martinez, a student at the University of Oklahoma, was investigated by the Secret Service after he wrote on a Facebook messageboard that US President George Bush should be assassinated and replaced with a monkey. Months later, two Louisiana State University students lost their swimming scholarships after making disparaging remarks about their coach on Facebook.

**Last year, Saul Martinez, a student at the University of Oklahoma, was investigated by the Secret Service after he wrote on a Facebook messageboard that US President George Bush should be assassinated and replaced with a monkey.**

This lack of privacy and control over free speech concerns computer science Professor Richard Rosenberg.

"I don't think universities can justify infringing on students' privacy," he said. "Inhibiting free speech is contrary to the way a university should operate."

But Rosenberg also advises students to use caution.

"These websites encourage people to provide a lot of information and make connections ... but a lot of students aren't aware of how much information

they're giving away," he warned.

Several universities have now drafted policies on social networking websites. Cornell University, a private institution in New York, was one of the first to officially warn its students about the use of Facebook, stating that it's important for them to remember that Facebook is malleable and may create as many obligations as it does opportunities for expression.

According to Scott Macrae, UBC Director of Public Affairs, the University's administrators recently held a meeting to discuss social networking websites, but no official policy has been created.

Students' Union Vice-President (Student Life) Omer Yusuf explained that, at the University of Alberta, only social networking sites that are in some way affiliated with the U of A fall under the University's Code of Student Behaviour (COSB), as they operate as an extension of the "University community."

"For Facebook, this community would be the [ualberta.facebook.com](http://ualberta.facebook.com). If you're using that particular community, and do something in offence to the COSB—like issuing threats—you would be looking at some serious consequences from the University. It would be the same thing as using your [ualberta.ca](http://ualberta.ca) mailing address to threaten someone at another [ualberta.ca](http://ualberta.ca) mailing address," Yusuf said.

"Any interaction with the U of A community, such as the Facebook community, can fall under the COSB. For other social networking sites, such as Myspace, because it isn't affiliated with the University, threats and other offences would be dealt with by the police."

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEF

Compiled by Scott Lilwall

### DEVELOPMENT FOR VANCOUVER OLYMPICS THREATENING ECO-SYSTEM

VANCOUVER(CUP)—The expansion of a major highway in British Columbia is threatening an important eco-system in the area, prompting locals to call for more to be done to protect threatened environments.

Dr Diane Srivastava, University of British Columbia ecologist, explained that BC has no legislation to protect species in

danger due to human development. "We know they're threatened, but there's nothing we can do," she said.

While federal legislation protecting threatened species exists, the provincial government hasn't matched this legislation. Srivastava explained that public citizens generally are unaware of this.

"I think Canadians in general are under the illusion that we have some great environmental legislation," she said. "Unfortunately we don't. While we have a lot of endangered species ... we have some of the worst environmental legislation."

But Mike Long, Director of Communications in the Ministry of Transportation, indicated there have been no problems thus far on the con-

struction of the highway, and assured they are abiding by environmental regulations and the guidelines of their management plans.

"There's constant monitoring before work begins, the management plans have to be approved and signed off by various agencies [such as the] Canadian Wildlife Service so all that work has gone to the project before they can begin construction," Long said.

"They can't work outside of these guidelines. These are the rules that are required and they have to follow in terms of proceeding with the construction and if they don't follow those rules they get shot down."

Amanda Stutt, *the Ubyessey*



## Federal education review a well-kept secret—until now

IT'S AN UNFORTUNATE TRADITION FOR THE FIRST issue of the year to fill this editorial space with something inspiring. But I have absolutely no advice to give you, my dear first-year students.

Let's face it—after five years at this slightly-above-par postsecondary institution, I'm basically as clueless as I was the morning I walked in. Meanwhile, there are others out there who are desperately in need of my advice, if they would but listen.

I should talk to you about the ills of procrastination and poor preparation, except that more often than not, I get my best marks on the papers I finish at 6am on the morning they're due. I'd tell you that university is tough and that you should work hard, but frankly I've yet to discern any correlation between how much effort I put into a class and the final grade I receive. University is a massive sham. Deal with it.

No doubt you've already gotten an inkling of this from your over-eager orientation leader's insistence that, "Sociology classes will *totally* break out into the Arts chant and random times, so you'd *better* know it!" As a result, any advice I'd pass your way would be insincere at best.

Instead, I'd like to spend the next 500-or-so words advising someone in much more dire need of it: Human Resource and Social Development Canada.

You see, my good friends at HRSDC, if you're going to ask Canadians to "share their views regarding overall objectives, governmental roles and accountability on postsecondary education" as part of a greater effort to restore fiscal balance in Canada, you might want to *tell* Canadians that you're seeking their advice. I understand that you're "looking forward to hearing [our] views!" Still, seeing as this consultation is to close in little over a week, it may have been prudent to notify interested parties beforehand.

I certainly didn't know about this, and I keep my ear fairly close to the ground when it comes to postsecondary education. But no one else at our dear little paper had heard a peep either. Neither did Liberal MLA Dave Taylor, Critic for Advanced Education, nor University of Alberta Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrhein. You know who else didn't know about it? Alberta's Minister of Advanced Education Denis Herard, and he's the person *in charge* of postsecondary planning in our province—though perhaps he can be forgiven, since he was somewhat hastily appointed and may still be learning the ropes.

How to explain the others, though, or that the U of A Students' Union wouldn't have found out, had they not happened upon a thread on a certain *Maclean's* columnist's weblog? This just gets curiously and curiously.

As far as I can gather, Alberta isn't an aberration in this either. Across the nation, those with a vested interest in postsecondary education—the "stakeholders," as the PR guys like to call us—have all been caught off guard by the federal Conservative's apparent desire for our input. They may have tried to keep this on the down-low, but oops—we found out anyway.

So surf over to [www3.hrsdc.gc.ca](http://www3.hrsdc.gc.ca) and spend a few minutes telling the feds what you want from your postsecondary education. This way, at least when they say they asked us we can say we told them—and that there's a hell of a lot of work to be done.

Unfortunately, the veil surrounding this survey speaks to the widespread problem of transparency—or rather the complete lack thereof—in the world of postsecondary education. We saw this with the *A Learning Alberta* review that ended in November 2005, which produced many important suggestions but no substantive action as of yet.

We saw this continued with the passing of Bill 40 earlier this summer, which effectively de-legislated tuition policy, allowing the Alberta Government to change postsecondary tuition policy on a whim. We were assured that this was to streamline the process and to make things better for students, but we have seen little work done and again, no action.

It's saddening to see that our federal Conservatives, through this HRSDC consultation, seem poised to extend Alberta's proud tradition of unaccountability and wordplay in lieu of tangible, concrete action.

MATT FREHNER  
Editor-in-Chief



MATTHEW BARRETT

## LETTERS

### Challenge that comfort zone, everyone

I was very pleased with the article "Pick up a book—and a lab coat" (10 August) by Michael Zahorodny-Burke. I appreciated his insight into the usefulness of a general degree while explaining how to be open-minded in our studies.

The article was written very eloquently. It explained how a general degree or variety of courses can help us not only in our professional lives but also our personal lives. I meet with students all the time who see themselves in one and only one profession when really they can use their knowledge and interests to help guide them in many directions.

At this point in my career I wish I had explored more avenues, studied more things, and tried harder in school. All of these things would have made me a happier and well-rounded person. I guess it was my youthfulness that kept me from seeing the big picture. I am not letting these opportunities pass me by any longer. I am involved in clubs, writing articles, exploring

my interest in science, and dancing. Pretty well-rounded activities, according to Michael.

This article was disappointing in one sense: the stab taken at Arts students. What is the point of an Arts degree? The point is to see the big picture, analyze and interpret the world around you with a critical mind and not take things at face value. The author seemed to imply that there is no practical application for an Arts degree—a real myth indeed!

I challenge everyone out of their comfort zone today.

AMANDA ROY  
Via Internet

### Surly review eggs on emo listener

It's a good thing that everyone is entitled to their own opinion (re: CD review, "Blue October," 10 August). I'm not knocking you for yours, but just from the second sentence alone (the comment about the tin foil), I could make a decision that you have either lived a very sheltered life or are completely clueless.

It was amazing that this album came out when it did in my case,

being that this is a freakish replica of what I'm dealing with today, from the boyfriend who I found out was on crystal meth, to the depression I faced in dealing with it, it sounded like the songs were specifically sang to me—surprisingly, along with many others I know.

Again, all opinions, but I do know one fact: the emotions are definitely real, whether they those of the person singing them or someone who feels and lives them like me.

JESSICA BROOKS  
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:letters@gateway.ualberta.ca).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

To be considered for publication, letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author.

## LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Canadian customs confound confederate

Being from the southeast, I'd like to know a bit more about the habits and customs out here.

1) At dances, why do couples walk around in circles after a selection has been played? They get plenty of exercise walking around during the music. Surely they don't have to supplement more during the interval.

2) At a "formal dance," do the men also dress formal or is it merely the women? Note that I am not referring to semi-formals.

3) Does Friday's Gateway always come out on Saturday?

"PERPLEXED"  
24 October, 1947

From the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance.